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Darkness Treasures

Worshipping the Underground Values

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IMPIETY

YYRKOON

URANUS

EXKREMENT

CELESTIA

MISANTHROPE

IMPERIAL

ROMANIAN SCENE REPORT

BELENOS

BLIZZARD

JUDAS ISCARIOT

CHANTELOUP CREATIONS

AND SOME MORE...

EDITO

So, here is the first issue of Darkness Treasures. As it's said under the title, the philosophy of the zine is to worship the underground values. That means that you will find interviews about underground bands, but also bands a bit more commercial with an underground spirit.

As this is my very first step in the unbelievable world of the underground press, there are mistakes. Lay-out mistakes, typo mistakes, questionning mistakes... Well I think there are more good than bad points in there!!! Maybe the next time I will touch the wings of perfection...

Okay, I shut the fuck off now, I let you discover what Treasures Darkness can offer us...

Have a good read,

Lord Azmoth

ULCERRHOEA

BELENOS

MISANTHROPE

IMPALED NAZARENE

IMPERIAL

EXKREMENT

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CELESTIA

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ROMANIAN SCENE REPORT

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THE DEMOS/EPS REVIEWS SECTION

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ULCERRHOEA

HI 180°, LET US BEGIN WITH A SHORT BIO THAT YOU CAN COMPLETE. YOUR BAND WAS BORN IN 1998, AND EVEN IF YOU RELEASED 3 DEMOS AND A SPLIT TAPE, IT'S RATHER A NEW BAND. IN WHICH BANDS DID YOU PLAY BEFORE ? WAS IT ONLY GRIND ? I KNOW YOU WERE CONNECTED TO BM BANDS, DID YOU PLAY THIS KIND OF MUSIC BEFORE ? AND BY THE WAY, DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS " WAR " BETWEEN GRIND BANDS AND BLACK METAL BANDS ?

Hey there! Yes, the band got started in 1998 as CARNAL SHROUD. Before this I also had a one-man band called CADAVEROUS SUPPURATION of whom some tapes are available but I´ve finished that one.
I also played in like 2 Black Metal bands in the vein of Beherit, Dark Throne and stuff like that.
I don´t think there is some real „war" between the two genres grind and black metal. Just some kind of apathy, I dunno... But you´ve to admit there are alot of fucking dumb idiots in the black scene... but those are everywhere... fuck, hm, brrrrrrrrrrrrr.

YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME FROM CARNAL SHROUD TO ULCERRHOEA. IN YOUR BIOGRAPHY YOU SAID YOU CHANGED IT BECAUSE THERE WAS TOO MUCH BANDS ALREADY USING IT. BUT DO YOU THINK ULCERRHOEA TO BE A MORE ORIGINAL NAME ? IT REMINDS ME OF HAEMORRHAGE. DO YOU LIKE THIS BAND ?

That „carnal" epidemy got on my balls so it had to leave and just „shroud" sounded like shit and also there´s another german band called shroud anyway. I dunno if ULCERRHOEA is an original name or not, I like it and it fits our stuff! Similar to haemo?? Hm, We´re better, hehe.

YOU'RE THE MAIN COMPOSER IN ULCERRHOEA. YOU PLAY DRUMS, BUT WHAT OTHER INSTRUMENTS DO YOU PRACTICE ? IS ULCERRHOEA A REAL BAND OR YOUR OWN PROJECT ?

It is a real band, not a project. I´m just the one coming up with songs, that´s all.

WHAT'S FOR YOU THE LIMIT FROM GRIND CORE TO UNBEARABLE AND UNLISTENABLE NOISE ?

There´s no limit, haha.

ARE YOU INFLUENCED BY OLD DEATH METAL ? YOU COVERED GUT, WHICH IS A KIND OF NORMAL THING FOR A GRIND BAND, BUT REPULSION ?

We covered GUT´s Cripple Bitch because it´s so easy and while we did the demo 3 tracks (not the bonus stuff) we noticed we just had 5 songs, so we just covered that song. About Repulsion, they were and will remain gods and therefore PESTILENT DECAY had to be deranged!

YOU HAVE YOUR OWN LABEL, PUTRID NAUSEA. WHAT ARE THE FUTURE RELEASES ? DON'T YOU THINK BY CREATING A NEW LABEL AGAIN, IT WILL SATURATE THE GRIND SCENE A BIT MORE, WITH SO MANY BANDS/ RELEASES ?

My next two releases are: 4-way split tape with Beer Vomit, ARS, probably Pissed Cunt and another band.
I don´t think I´m saturating the scene with my label nor my two ONLY bands. Ain´t it great to have a growing and living scene?

I HEARD YOU HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE GERMAN POLICE, DUE TO " EXPLICIT " COVERS. SINCE THAT, YOU CHANGED THE COVER OF THE " FETUS SANGUINOLENTUS " DEMO. WHAT DID THE POLICE/JUSTICE TO YOU ? I READ THAT DARKER THAN BLACK RECS WAS ALSO CHARGED BY POLICE FOR EXPLICIT STUFF, BUT IN THE NS WAY. DO YOU THINK YOUR COUNTRY TO HAVE TOO MUCH CENSORSHIP ?

Yeah, I had some trouble with the police and authorities, but luckily that case is finished by now and I´m also fucking glad I got away without a bill!!! Fucking puritan shitheads here in Germoney!

THANKS FOR ANSWERING THOSE QUESTIONS. YOU'RE FREE TO CONCLUDE AS YOU WANT.

Thanks for the intie Thomas! Keep up the madness!

Putrid Nausea
M. Lundberg
Humboldstr. 12
D-90542 Eckental
GERMANY

AT THE DUMP
one of three corpses found together, this one with severe head wounds.

Belenos

Now, this is a small interview of Belenos. It was first planned to be on my mail order list, but I decided to include it on Darkness Treasures. So enjoy it !

You seem to be the mastermind behind Belenos, there's been several line-up changes during the years. Can you explain us those reasons and introduce the new members ?
At the very first, Belenos was composed of Nathalie (guit, lyrics) and myself (guit, vox, bass). This line-up allowed the creation of the 2 first demos/albums : " Notre amour éternel " on May 96, and " Triste pensée " on August 97. After that I worked alone for a year, that permitted me to record on March 98 the demo " Allégorie d'une souffrance ". Since the end of 98, Belenos is at last a real band, with the coming of Denis (drums), Raph (guit) and Yann (bass guit). Our first live show was the opening of Marduk, Enthroned and Angel Corpse in Lille. Now we are recording a new album entitled " Spicilège ", planned for this summer and we have even a few ideas for its successor. To sum up, Belenos has strenghtened little by little, slowly but assuredly and it's only the beginning !

Belenos' music is very dark and sad, with many quiet periods with clean guitars, following or announcing pure black metal furies. That is I believe the Belenos' trade mark, each song is immediatly recognizable but different one from the others though. When you write, what does inspire you ? (to walk in the winter forest, drowned in the fog, or maybe to watch stone churches burning after having drunk some young virgin's blood ?)
Yes, you exactly seized our style, all our songs are elaborated that way, while being different in the melodies and in the atmospheres, always gloomy, it's by the way very important when we play this kind of music, approaching black metal : sincerity ! There are too many rotten bands that try to copy the others and are held to be some jokers... The sincerity of a band is felt from the first seconds of listening. To my mind inspiration is spontaneity (the track's foundations), linked with a certain backward movement (the arrangements). Apart from this, I love to wander on winter in quiet and dark places... but more in the purpose to forget that inhuman society.

You can't deny your music to be inspired by Burzum. What's your favourite album from Burzum ? Did you listen to his last, Hlidskjalf ? If you did it, don't you find astonishing that someone as extreme as Varg is, has totally turned his musical trend, turning from a hateful depressive black to " folk " ambient music ?
My fave album is " det som engang var ". I like a lot the other metal albums, but the 2 last albums less : I'm an atmospheric fan though. His incarceration surely restricts him not to do what he'd want to... he had not to act like a jerk ! *(Mmmhh... Varg no longer plays guitar because he says it's a " nigger instrument " ? ! ? – ED)* Apart from that, I do appreciate ambient music when it's a bit folk, distinguishing catchy folk and happy folk, because for me a catchy music is not necessarily happy, it can be sick, emotional or containing an atmosphere. But purely happy music is shit to me !

What happened with Polyphemus ? They re-released your first demo on CD, but didn't they offer you a deal for a future album ? By the way, I saw that the CD was almost sold-out, do you know how many CDs were printed and what was the world-wide response ?
" Notre amour éternel " was released on CD format on March 98 after 17 months waiting ! Despite a non-existant promotion, the album has sold well, it's now a collector because it won't be repressed or not in this version at least. Sales have been especially made in France, that's normal ! But with a little promotion abroad, everything can happen ! Polyphemus no longer exists, and that's not a bad thing, I was conscious of the risks I ran with this label, but I don't regret my decision. I hope to find a new label very soon !

So, as a conclusion for this little interview, I know you're very active in the underground, you play in several bands. Could you introduce them ?
I've reduced my musical activity, I stopped playing in Bereavement and Despair's tiny things. I'm still running Asyndess, my solo project, a third album has been recorded one year ago but it's not for sale yet. I play as well in Excavation, that performs some brutal death/grind between Mortician and Cannibal Corpse, the first demo is available since this summer. Raf, who's the second guitar player in Belenos has plenty of bands : Kaiser, Infernalia, Stomox, Bellus Ramus... He has not released anything by now, but he will do !

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France

Misanthrope

Hell, does Misanthrope need an introduction ? I don't think so. This is a band I like for years, and I couldn't help including them on this first issue. Underground or not ? Read Philippe's comments in this « entrevue ».

At the end of Molière's Misanthrope, Alceste leaves the scene and that's we could think about the band, when listening to " la dernière pierre " (the last stone) on 1666. Does this song set the end of an era for Misanthrope, musically and philosophically speaking ? Didn't you want to split up after this record ?
Yes, we should stop the band with Theatre Bizarre. The last stone sets the final and destructive stage of Molière's Misanthrope, as we established the band with the theater play's datas. It's indeed Alceste's departure, alone, towards reclusion. We did set a new band, keeping the same name, and a second era has begun, with our new line up, modern misanthrope, more accessible, which began with Visionnaire.

Is it a will to be more accessible and thus less misanthropic ?
Totem Taboo and 1666 are the achievement of the first hour. I think there are two bands in Misanthrope, the 1991 to 1995 Misanthrope and the 2000 Misanthrope, the band on stage, acclaimed, the one on the papers. There has really been the underground, ultra-elitist band, with an artistic, anti-commercial and anti-marketing attitude. I divide the band in two periods. Anyhow, everything was made to be stopped after 1666. There is everything on this album, so the following could be only repetition. And at first of Visionnaire's composition, we named the album " Futile ", because there was nothing after 1666. But we called it " Visionnaire ", and it was not really my choice at the stage of copy-writer of the idea Misanthrope.
Anyhow, we splitted up before recording 1666. That's wonderful, there was only me and Jean-Jacques *(the bass player – ED)*. We were five ones preparing it, with Ch. Moreac on guitars, O. Gaubert on drums and A. Iskandar on keyboards. At last we remained two recording it, with session-members. We did it because it had to be done, but it was not anymore a band. Actually it became a band after, I can't deny the fact this album sold well. It became magic from this moment. We have had to be recognized abroad, to play something extremely nihilistic to make people realize there was a potential in Misanthrope.

Why do you qualify the music of the last album as " extreme heavy metal " ? There are few heavy metal elements to my mind and Misanthrope is not known to be an extreme band (as Graveland can be for instance). Is it a way not to confess you're playing death metal ?
Next to Lara Fabian, Misanthrope is extreme. That's the marketing section who found this label, between our record company and the papers and I do believe we play extreme heavy metal, that doesn't trouble me, the same goes for death metal. It's a bit the same thing, when there's a guitar, drums and singing, that's metal *(so the band playing behind Lara Fabian is extreme ? ? ? - ED)*. But I think we're extreme.

Less than before ?
More than before. Before, we were avant-garde, not extreme. We had our underground glory hours, and they were not the

best hours. Now we do something else. We do not spit on our past, we are extremely proud of it. People must know that 70% of our fans discovered Misanthrope only with Visionnaire and I'm conscious of it. But when I compose a song, I'm still the same one as in " pirouetting through the gloom " as in " L'autre rivage ", at all levels, it's more organized, more structurated. From an other way, we have some pressures on our backs so we can't make mistakes, on the composition, sound and artistic levels. To be honest, the 1666 sound is an error. If we had recorded it in Sweden, it would have turned totally differently, ah ah. I have thought about it, I had everything, songs, lyrics, but no band ! Is it also not be underground anymore and to have means to record something good ? While being still Misanthrope ? " Antiquary to mediocrity " is 0% UG but 100% extreme.
Coming back to the question, we're a DM band, we are as death as heavy metal extreme, I'm convinced of it. In our attitude and the access we give to our audience. We are ultra-accessible. I think there are too many buffoons that tell themselves more black than black and there is no communication. Real extreme and UG is to be close to people and to answer them, even if 9/10 of them are kids. Nevermind. As time passes by, your opinion is growing differently as before.

What does represent the hand on your covers ? The hand seems to belong to a female body, maybe Célimène, which handles the spike to stab Alceste ? Is woman the enemy of man, the reason of being of the Misanthrope ?
That's even worse. It's the symbol, the emblematic of Misanthrope, a female model hand, dislocated, that represents the human being, led by a superior force, an other one. It is the disarmed side of Misanthrope. It's a recurrent symbol on each of our albums and on our box. It has not a so pointed explanation that you think of. It's up to everybody to find what they want to.
I don't think Célimène has stabbed Alceste, she gave him only good, she allowed him to exist as a Misanthrope, she disgusted him so much that he splitted from human being and lived as a recluse. Human being is the reason of being for the Misanthrope.

Tell us more about the box ?
It's a 3CD digipack, limited to 1793 copies, to come back to the UG. Anti-commercial, only to give us some pleasure. There's one " libertine humiliations " picture CD, one 13 unreleased tracks CD, called " œuvres interdites ", with some '95, '97 and '98 tracks, and a live CD, recorded on the tour with Septic Flesh. Neither mixed nor overdubbed, we can hear the audience first, then the music behind.
We are not a sold-out band because there's some buzz around us. In Bourges, we made an UG show in front of 60 people, and it was better to my mind than the day after, before 1500 people, opening for COF.

On the last album, lyrics, if they remain of high quality, seem to be less poetic and less ultra-rich than in the past (the apogee was on 1666). Lyrics have an historic side (Chouans) or a more modern side (at 666 days, matador…). Does it follow the musical evolution (radicalisation, more efficient…) ?
It comes as it comes, nothing is determined in Misanthrope. Visionnaire is more complex than 1666, but the production is more efficient, very international, and it sounds better. On 1666, the sound is so bad that bad things are hidden. On the box, we re-recorded " courtisane syphilitique " with the today's line-up and the track is more complex than before… There is an idolatry with this album, many people started listening to Misanthrope with it. But as band, we couldn't go on like that: we were two people, with improvising members, the solos were not written before. We went from an improvised work to an elaborated work, we know first how the song will sound. As for the lyrics, it's up to my imagination, but it's rhythmically adapted to the music, there is the right number of syllabes in my vocal space to fill in. We win in efficiency. We know that we can make some avant-garde, some theater, but now we try to canalize our energy, keep the power. To have a more accessible language, less oversubtle, it's a personal choice.

If I believe in what I've read, " Variations " is sold-out. I ask myself if it will be re-released, with some surprises, like a (swedish of course) remastering and the split CD as a bonus ?
Nothing is planned, that's good, there's no mean to buy this album anywhere, that's great. It's nihilistic, anti-commercial and really UG, it makes the music die *(selling an album out is anti-commercial ? ? ? – ED)*. I want the music to die, not to be eternal. That it is at the present time. It's the work of the moment. Maybe one day it will be re-released, because more and more people are interested in, but it's not of my decision.

You re-recorded " at 666 days " from Libertine Humiliations with Spiros from Septic Flesh on vocals. Has the label in mind to imitate its colleagues Moonfog and Season of Mist in releasing split CDs with label's bands ? What would you think of a War : Misanthrope Vs Septic Flesh ?
It would please us as artist beings, we're big fans of Septic Flesh, and friends, it's the closest band among the Holy Records bands, but we never spoke about it with SF nor with the label. We have played " Burning Phoenix " with them on stage, there's always been a real sympathy between the two bands. The split album is not planned at all, but it's a good idea.

Do you have any side-projects ?
I made a guitar solo and sung on the '91 album of Execution. This solo has been doubled on one track to be more brutal, to sound à la Morbid Angel, and the voices were average. I've sung in 91 on the Broken Fear demo, I've played bass guitar twice with Proton Burst on rehearsal and that's all. After that I devoted all my efforts to Misanthrope, it asks a lot of work. I would like to do things, I've plenty of them in stock. But Misanthrope leaves too little place to do something else. I'd like to have a side-project but I've no time. It would be some Celtic Frost from the " Into the Pandemonium " era, a mix between 1666 and Totem Taboo, with weeping voices…

On stage, you no longer handle the guitar…
It's Jean-Jacques who forbade me, he wants me to concentrate on the voice, to have a theatrical look, so we hired a new guitar player, François-Xavier, a guitar specially gifted, 10 years younger than me, he does more than only taking my place, he improves the music. But I still compose. It's different, it's new, it's great but it won't ever be the same thing. It's obvious that a singer is better if he only sings and a guitar player is better only playing guitar. We did it for the quality of the band.

Quality : it's to have some pleasure or to give people some pleasure, this is not very misanthropic.
The misanthrope loves the other, he wants to get closer. He turns away because he can't stand, he can't communicate, but he tries. Look at the Molière's play, Alceste, how many times does he try to seduce Célimène ? We are at the seduction level. That's true we want to give love to the audience *(Shalalala… – ED)*. It's obvious. And very misanthropic.

When could we see a video-clip from Misanthrope ? Which songs in particular would you have wanted to be transposed on screen ?
" Bâtisseur de cathédrales ", of course, it's the ultimate Misanthrope's song. Or " courtisane syphilitique ". One of these two songs.

Not " l'erotique courtoise " ?
No, very long and too much personal. It's too reducing, it doesn't gather people. We must gather them. We must stop playing before 90 buffoons and 10 fans. It's fantastic to have raised the envy of understanding and to try to find what's behind. Amybe we've open the eyes of some people. We give their chance. Human being changes. We turn the other cheek. This is to be a misanthrope, ah ah !

IMPALED NAZARENE

Mmmhh. I guess that interviewing a band so famous like Impaled Nazarene for a first issue is a big privilege... Let's read this discussion with Mika...

Until now, how is the audience reaction for " Nihil " ?

Very good and very bad. It's since " Suomi Finland Perkele " the first time that it's really split up. You love it or you hate it. Some people think that we have changed too much. Because of the guitar player, because of the guitar solos and so on...

You toured in many countries, as Mexico, Australia... In which country the audience is the most crazy and dedicated to metal ?

In Japan, definitely Japan.

Which are the countries you'd like to tour in ?

We'd love to tour everywhere because it's free trips, we got free holidays at the same time. But especially I would go to Brazil, Colombia and South Africa, because some bands played in South Africa before us, so...

As you're anti-communist, would you play in communist countries ?

We have played in Russia, and in Czech Republic, so it doesn't mean that I say " no, we won't play there ". I don't care.

What is the most important for you ? The audience or the government ?

The audience, yes of course. If the people are great there, there it's called to be great. Russia was fucking excellent, it was unbelievable. They're really nice people.

They're really extreme too...

In the fucking front of the gig place people were shooting speed and ther police was smoking cigarettes and laughed, " ah ah ah ". That's Russia !

When you began the band, back in 1990, did you think that Impaled Nazarene would turn that way : tours in the world, big concerts, to be able to record albums in good studios... ?

Well of course not. We were not looking for a deal. We got the deal with Osmose that way :one of our friends sent them a demo. We were happy to be offered the deal, but I didn't expect to start touring in the world.

When you started, what were your goals through IN ?

We just wanted to play the music we liked. But now, we have goals. Actually when we started to play gigs in the world, I started to realize that I wanted to tour in South America. Now with the Nihil CD I said to myself that in this tour we will do these plans. Rapture took us everywhere. We are the only band from Finland that has played in New Zealand for example.

There were some problems there.

No, we played four shows there but during one of these shows these guys started to throw beer bottles, insult our girlfriends, spit on us... it was getting very ugly eh eh.

You said in an interview that Slayer's " reign in blood " was your all-time favorite album. You covered Sodom, punk bands, but not Slayer. Would you do it ?

No, there are two bands I will never cover : Slayer and Venom. Because you cannot make better versions of them. I have heard the Slayer tribute and I think they are complete shit. You cannot have the aggression of " reign in blood ", it's useless.

Do you prefer Slayer's black metal or thrash metal era ?

Well for me Slayer has never been a black metal band. That's speed metal. The best album are the " hell awaits " and the " reign in blood " albums. I hate " south of heaven ", it's complete shit to me, as the new one too. It's fucking hip hop !

You live in Belgium but the band lives in Finland. Is it hard to rehearse ?

Yes.

A few years ago, you said that you went to Finland only to record albums. Were there things you regret, you thought they were sounding good at the moment, but after a while you hated it ?

I went to Finland like two weeks before we went to studio so we rehearsed really hard. But the problem is with the Latex Cult and the Rapture albums. The rapture sounds okay, except for the guitar. The guitar sound is... a joke and for the Latex Cult we had lots of problems in the studio with our equipment and stuff, we had total shit backline. So when we went to record Nihil, we rented all the backline. We didn't provide our guitars, that's why the sound is fucking good. We understood that to record, all we needed to have was a good backline. It's just a fact.

Would you record in the Abyss Studios ?

But everybody goes there, so... I'd like to work with him. Actually I met Peter twice : once at the Dynamo and once in USA. I said to him " hello I'm Mika from Impaled " and he said " hello ". I was surprised he remembered me, he was completely drunk and he embraced me and said " I love you, please come to my studio " !

What do you think about your native scene ? there are many finnish good bands, as Horna, Devilry, Azaghal... Do you know some of them ?

I don't know any of them ! Wait. you said Horna, they are friends of us, we know them very well.

What do you think of this kind of rise ? Do you think that this " trend " will last ?

I don't know, I don't listen to finnish BM bands, I prefer to listen to Stratovarius, Children of Bodom, Nightwish... I like those bands. I don't listen to black metal, I don't care. I just want to listen to the music I make myself. I rather listen to other kinds of things so I don't get too many ideas from other bands.

Looking back to the albums you made with IN, which is your favorite and the one you don't like the most ?

The least favorite album is Suomi Finland Perkele and, well I like Nihil a lot, but I'm the most proud of he Latex Cult, because of all the problems we had, members leaving, new members coming. It was a nightmare, and when I saw the final product, I'm so glad that it's out.

In Latex Cult, from where the samples have been taken ?

That's taken from " silent night, deadly night ", it's an horror movie, from the 80's.

Are you into horror movies ?

I have 2000 films myself

So you have Cannibal Holocaust ?

Of course

Nekromantic ?

Of course

Bad Taste ?

Of course

Evil Dead ?

You are naming all the classics, ah ah ! But I don't watch only horror movies, I have a lot of different things. I like Kung Fu... I don't know if you have seen that, the fucking sickest movie I have ever seen is " the untold story of Hong Kong ", it's a fucking hard film to find, but all the Bad Taste and Evil Dead look like pathetic jokes compared to this film. It's the true story of a serial killer in Hong Kong who worked in a restaurant. He killed more than 50 people and served the food of his victims to the customers.

You know about Camp 731, the chinese propaganda film ?

Yeah, have you seen the part when the guy is in the pressure room ? It's a real body. They filmed a real guy, but when the rectum thing comes out, it's a real body they have stolen from the morgue ! I got to tell you that when I was watching this movie I had a total anger, I was like... when the fucking shit thing comes out, it's ...bah ! I was happy when on tour, in Japan or something else, someone gave me this... yes !

What about your side-projects ?

Dead dead dead.

Will be there a new Rocking Dildos ?

I'm 100% sure no.

Why did you stop Raism ?

My role in Raism was a session singer. I didn't do any music, I didn't do any lyrics. That was just this greek guy who forced me to come to sing that stuff so I went to Greece. Mmmhhh, sing, take money, thank you, good bye.

Would you do again an album in the vein of Diabolos Rising " 666 " ?

No, only metal. Oh. I might go and sing... there's a band in Canada. The guy really wants me to sing. He offered me a very good deal and he said that it sounds a bit like Diabolos Rising so I said to him to send me the tape, I want to hear it before. And if it's okay, I will do it, because... I'm really money hungry, ah ah !

Would you sing in a Children of Bodom album (as an extra guest) ? You sung on the new The Crown album.

With them, no. It's a band I don't want to sing in because his voice is pretty near like mine. The Crown's singer sounds completely different. I'm going to Czech Republic on the 26th of May. Bruno (ex-Krabathor) ~~see also~~ Hypnos, and he is going to record a full lenght album for Morbid Records and he wants me to sing in. You haven't heard Hypnos ? I can tell you that you will say fuck Krabathor when you'll hear the stuff. It's absolutely brilliant death metal. I was so surprised !

To conclude, what do you think about belgian beers ?

Some of them are really great and some of them are total shit !

You know the " satan " ?

That's great beer, of course, ah ah. You have to like it ! have you tested Belzebuth from France ? It's in the region near Osmose office, in the north of France, they are selling Belzebuth. It's 18.5 % ! Hervé from Osmose gave me a pack of it. I was at home and I didn't realized how strong it was when I drunk it ! What the hell is this ? it's brutal beer !

EIN FILM ÜBER DIE LIEBE ZUM MENSCHEN
UND WAS VON IHM ÜBRIG BLEIBT
NEKROMANTIK
Ein Film von JÖRG BUTTGEREIT
Produktion MANFRED O. JELINSKI

IMPERIAL

IMPERIAL is a band that you can love or hate, but you can't ignore this assault of thrash metal fury. Read this and you'll see that Ojau tells a truth that won't please many people...

YOU'VE JUST RELEASED A NEW ALBUM. COULD YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT IT ?

OUR 2ND AND NEW ALBUM IS CALLED " MALMORT " AND IT'S A KIND OF CONCEPT ALBUM IN WHICH EACH TRACK IS AN EPISOD OF THE CITY " MALLEMORT " WITH IS ITS PEOPLE, ITS CUSTOMS, ITS LITTLE STORIES... IN A NOT DETERMINED CENTURY. MUSICALLY SPEAKING, IT'S OUR MOST AGGRESSIVE ALBUM, FAR BRUTALER THAN " AUX CRÉPUSCULES ", THAT WAS ALREADY A VERY EXTREME RELEASE. IT'S BEEN RECORDED IN FEBRUARY 99 AND SHOULD BE RELEASED IN NOVEMBER. BUT FOR THE MOMENT I SPEAK TO YOU (JANUARY 2000), I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S OUT OR IF IT WILL BE EVER RELEASED...

BY TRAVELLING IN YOUR COUNTRY, I SAW A CITY CALLED MALMORT AND, WHAT A SURPRISE, THE NEW ALBUM IS CALLED MALMORT. ALONG WITH THIS AND THRASHEUR 13, YOU WANT TO PROMOTE YOUR COUNTRYSIDE TOURISM OR WHAT ? WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICATION OF THIS TITLE ?

FIRST THE CITY IS WRITTEN " MALLEMORT " BECAUSE IT'S OLD FRENCH AND WE ADAPTED IT TO MODERN FRENCH. THEN WE CHOSE THIS TITLE BECAUSE IT DEFINES ALL THAT THE ALBUM CONTAINS, LYRICALLY AND MUSICALLY SPEAKING, AND AS IT'S A CITY IN OUR AREA, IT OBVIOUS FOR ME TO SPEAK ABOUT IT. IT WOULD BE STUPID THAT SKROW SPEAKS ABOUT THINGS HE DOESN'T KNOW... LIKE THOSE AMERICAN BANDS WHO SPEAK ABOUT SCANDINAVIAN MYTHOLOGY, OR SCANDINAVIAN BANDS THAT SPEAK ABOUT GREEK OR EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGY... OUR COUNTRY IS VERY INTERESTING BECAUSE CHRISTIANITY HAS NOT HIT US A LOT, AND THAT LEGENDS AND PAGAN CULTURE HAVE REMAINED VERY CURRENT HERE. WE ARE SOMETHING LIKE THE AMBASSADORS OF PROVENCE. AS FOR THE SIGNIFICATION OF " MALLEMORT ", IT'S VERY SIMPLE : THIS CITY WAS SURROUNDED BY SWAMPS AND QUICK SANDS FOR CENTURIES AND MANY PEOPLE AND ANIMALS DIED IN THOSE SANDS, SO THE NAME OF THIS SO MACABRE TOWN.

FROM WHO DOES THIS " SPEEDCORE " LABEL COME? FROM YOU OR OSMOSE ?

THE LABEL " SPEEDCORE " COMES FROM US. IT'S A MEAN TO SPREAD CONFUSION, AH AH AH ! ! ! NO, ACTUALLY IT'S THE REAL DEFINITION OF OUR MUSIC : A SPEED METAL GUITAR WITH CRUST CORE DRUMS, EASY, ISN'T IT ? WE HAD OFTEN PROBLEMS WITH OUR MUSIC'S DEFINITION : IN 94 WE DEFINED OURSELVES AS " WAR METAL ", COMPARED WITH OUR FIRST DEMO'S TITLE, " WAR SPIRIT " AND WE WERE THE ONLY ONES TO USE THIS TERM THEN... THEN CAME A NAZI POLES BLACK METAL WAVE THAT BEGAN TO USE THIS TERM, SO IN 96 WE REDEFINED OUR STYLE ALONG WITH THE MUSICAL STYLE, I.E SOME BLACK/THRASH OR " REVIVAL ". HENCE, PLENTY OF SCANDINAVIAN SHITS HAVE CAME AND FUCKED OUR SCENE UP WITH THEIR TRENDY ATTITUDE AND HYPERCOMMERCIAL MUSIC, SO WE'VE BEEN ASHAMED TO BE LINKED TO THIS POSEURS SCENE, PERVERTED WITH ALL THOSE SWEDISH FAGGOTS, AND WE ARRIVED TO CHANGE ONCE MORE OUR TERM TO SPEEDCORE. I HOPE THAT NOW WE'LL BE FOLLOWED ONLY BY TRUE EXTREME METAL BANDS, I MEAN JAPANESE BANDS LIKE FASTKILL, ABIGAIL, SABBAT, CUT THROAT OR TERROR SQUAD, WHO ARE THE MOST CLOSED TO WHAT WE PLAY.

YOU'RE TO RELEASE A 2 CD WITH OLD SONGS, PARTICULARLY WITH YOUR DEATH METAL BEGINNINGS. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF WE COULD ONE DAY LISTEN TO SOME IMPERIAL TROUBLE, THE IMPERIAL INDUSTRIAL FIRST-FRUITS ?

A 2 CD IS TO BE RELEASED INDEED, ON IMPALER OF TRENDIES PROD (HI MAX). THE FIRST CD WILL CONTAIN OUR 3 FIRST DEMOS AND THE SECOND ONE SOME UNRELEASED TRACKS OR DIFFERENT VERSIONS IN REHEARSAL + 2 LIVE TRACKS, THE WHOLE FOR THE PRICE OF ONE CD ! ! ! WE ARE SO OFTEN ASKED FOR OUR OLD DEMOS THAT WE CAME TO RELEASE THEM ON CD.

AS FOR IMPERIAL TROUBLE, WE'LL NEVER RE-RELEASE THOSE RECORDINGS BECAUSE IT'S PURE SHIT ! ! ! WE WERE LOOKING FOR OURSELVES, IT WAS VERY ORIGINAL, AND WE'VE BEEN LABELED AS INDUS METAL BECAUSE AT THIS TIME, PEOPLE STUCK THIS TERM TO ALL THE BANDS THEY COULDN'T LABEL. BUT FOR ME IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH INDUS, IT WAS JUST DIFFERENT. IT'S BECAUSE OF THE DRUM MACHINE. THIS WORD INDUS. BUT THERE WAS NO SAMPLES.

I DO KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE LIKE THIS IMPERIAL ERA BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH REAL METAL WE ARE PRACTICING NOW, AND MOREOVER THOSE DEMOS WERE NEVER DISTRIBUTED, NOBODY WON'T MISS LISTENING TO THEM BACK...

YOU'VE RECENTLY MADE A BULLDOZER COVER. THIS BAND COMES BACK IN FASHION BY NOW, BUT 3 YEARS AGO, NOBODY SEEMED TO REMEMBER THAT BAND. DON'T YOU FIND THIS REVIVAL VERY TRENDY ?

YES, A SPLIT-EP SERIE CALLED " TRIBUTE TO BULLDOZER " IS TO BE RELEASED ON WARLORD RECS (HI ALEX) AND WE ARE THE FIRST TO OPEN IT WITH OUR FRIENDS FROM SABBAT (JAP). THEY WILL BE LIMITED TO 500 EX AND WILL BE SOLD OUT VERY SOON, SO RUSH ON IT BECAUSE THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.

AS FOR BULLDOZER, THEY WON'T COME BACK, IT'S ALMOST SURE BUT SOME MEMBERS WILL COME BACK IN NEW BANDS. IT'S TRUE THERE'S CURRENTLY A NOSTALGIC WAVE IN METAL AND SOMETIMES IT'S A VERY POSITIVE THING WHEN WE LISTEN TO SUCH GENIOUS ALBUMS AS THOSE OF ANVIL, EXCITER, VENOM OR SOD ! ! !THE PROBLEM IS THE " REVIVAL " TERM IS A CATCHALL AND EVERYONE LOST THEMSELF : PEOPLE PUT SOME SPEED, SOME THRASH, SOME DEATH, SOME HEAVY, ONLY OLD CULT BANDS AND YOUNG BANDS LIKE US WHO ARE VERY EXTREME AND ARE EXCEPTIONS WITH THE REST OF THE SCENE. PEOPLE WILL FIND THEMSELVES AND FIND INTEREST IN OUR SCENE ONLY IF THE BIG METAL MAGAZINES' REDACTORS (THOSE CLODS THAT DO KNOW NOTHING TO METAL AND WANT TO GIVE LESSONS) AGREE AT LAST TO LABEL EACH BAND IN ITS OWN CLASS. THEY SHOULD BEGIN BY LISTENING TO METAL AND TO TAKE INTEREST IN THE UNDERGROUND SCENE TO MAKE IT EVOLVE, RATHER THAN MASTURBATING THEMSELVES ON EVERYTHING THAT GETS OUT FROM SCANDINAVIA.

LIVE PERFORMANCE IS NOT THE THING WHERE IMPERIAL IS THE BEST, CONSEQUENTLY TO THE ABORTED TOUR BACK IN 98, THAT ALMOST KILLED THE BAND. FOR THE NEW ALBUM, IS SOMETHING PLANNED ?

WE'LL MAYBE PLAY IN MARSEILLE 1 OR 2 DAYS BECAUSE OUR FRIENDS FROM ABIGAIL (JAP) SHOULD COME HERE FOR A FEW DAYS AND IT WOULD BE AN HONOUR TO PLAY WITH THEM. BESIDES THAT, NOTHING PLANNED, BECAUSE APART FROM A PROPOSAL TO TOUR WITH PENTACLE/SABBAT/ABIGAIL, WE DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH BLACK METAL BANDS...

THE NEW ALBUM LYRICS, AS I COULD HAVE READ FROM THEM, ARE VERY WELL WRITTEN. COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT THEM ? I GUESS SKROW WRITES THEM, AND AS THEY ARE VERY CRUDE AND BRUTAL, I DON'T THINK HE'S A LYRICAL POETRY FAN. FROM WHERE DOES HE GET HIS INSPIRATION AND STYLE ?

HIS STYLE IS NATURAL BECAUSE HE SINGS AS HE SPEAKS, WITHOUT FLOURISH. BESIDES, HERE EVERYBODY SPEAKS THE SAME WAY, AND IT'S BETTER LIKE THAT. I WOULD NOT SEE SKROW SPEAKING LIKE LAURENT MICHELLAND FROM METALLIAN, SO-CALLED INTELLECTUAL FOR 2 BUCKS AND BORING EVERYBODY WITH A SPEACH ABOUT " THE BEAUTY OF A NORWEGIAN FIR-TREE THAT REFLECTS THE MELANCHOLY OF THE SOUL OF THE BLACK METAL FEMALE SINGERS "...

HIS INSPIRATION COMES FROM OUR TELEPHONE DELIRIUMS : WE BEGIN WITH A SIMPLE SUBJECT AND THEN WE TURN CRAZY, AS IF WE TOLD JOKES... OUR LAUGHS ATTACKS BECOME VERY SERIOUS SONGS. WE SPEAK ABOUT GUTS, BLOOD, SEX AND WE HAVE FUN WITH GORE JOKES, IT ENDS BY SHOCKING PEOPLE AND THERE WE TELL OURSELVES : " IF IT SHOCKS AND IT MAKES US LAUGH, THEN IT'S COOL, WE HAVE SOME LYRICS. "

WITH SOME TITLES LIKE " LA FEMME BRÛLÉE " (THE BURNED WOMAN) AND " LES CHIENNASSES " (THE BITCHES), WE CAN ASK WHAT DO YOU HAVE AGAINST WOMEN ?

AND YOU FORGOT " LES FILLES MORTES NE DISENT JAMAIS NON " (DEAD GIRLS NEVER SAY NO). AH AH AH ! ! ! WE HAVE NOTHING AGAINST WOMEN IN GENERAL, EVEN IF THOSE LYRICS DON'T MAKE OUR GIRLFRIENDS LAUGH, IT'S JUST STUPID AND WICKED JOKES THAT MAKE US LAUGH, AS MUCH AS THOSE WE MAKE ON MEN (LE NARCISSIQUE, L'HISTOIRE DE BOBBY...) BUT NOBODY READS THOSE ONES, WEIRD, ISN'T IT ? ACTUALLY, " LA CHIENNASSE " IS A TEXT THAT GOES AGAINST THE GROUPIES FROM MARSEILLE. IT'S A REAL ATTACK TOWARDS THESE WHORES... I'LL JUST TELL YOU A STORY : ONCE UPON 2 GIRLS THAT COME TO A BLOODTHORN CONCERT, DRESSED LIKE GOTHICS. ONE OF THE 2 GIRLS ASKS HER SISTER, WHO WAS AT THE CONCERT TOO, IF THIS BAND IS FAMOUS AND WHERE DO THEY COME FROM. SHE ANSWERS HER THEY'RE NORWEGIANS AND THEY BEGIN TO BE WELL KNOWN... AFTER THE CONCERT, THOSE 2 GIRLS MEET THE BAND AND ARE FUCKED LIKE DOGS EVEN IF THEY HAD ALREADY A BOYFRIEND (IT'S NOT US... AH AH AH ! !). THIS IS JUST AN EXAMPLE EVEN IF IT'S A REAL STORY. IT'S JUST TO SAY TO GIRLS THAT HAVE A MUSICIAN BOYFRIEND (NO NEED TO BE FAMOUS) NOT TO LET THEIR BOYFRIEND GO TO MARSEILLE, AND IF HE'S ALREADY GONE THERE, THEN GIRLS, YOU'RE CUCKOLD.

IT'S MARSEILLE : GIRLS WHO DON'T LISTEN TO METAL, WHO DRESS THEMSELVES IN A SEXY WAY, WHO BRING THEIR ASS IN CONCERTS OR METAL PUBS, AND THAT SUCK YOU UNTIL DEATH... WHAT SORT OF RESPECT CAN YOU HAVE TOWARDS THOSE UNDER-SHITS ? *(I DON'T CARE, I'M GOING TO MARSEILLE RIGHT NOW ! ! ! ! ! ! ! -ED)*

I KNOW YOU'RE LISTENING TO MANY OLD SPEED METAL AND HEAVY BANDS. WILL IT INFLUENCE ON YOUR MUSIC (DECREASE IN SPEED, HIGH PITCHED VOICE...)

I'M LISTENING AS MANY HEAVY, SPEED AS MANY THRASH, DEATH, BLACK... OR SPEEDCORE ! IMPERIAL COULD GO IN THE WAY WE WANT BUT IT'S NOT THE CASE : FOR US, EACH ALBUM MUST BE MORE BRUTAL THAN THE ONE BEFORE. NEVERMIND THE STYLE WE TAKE TO ARRIVE TO OUR GOAL, BUT AN IMPERIAL ALBUM MUST BE A NOISE ORGY ! ! ! THERE WILL BE SOME CHANGES FOR THE 3RD ALBUM, I'VE TOTALLY CHANGED MY WAY OF PLAYING, IT WILL BE SURPRISING, BUT THE SINGING SHOULD REMAIN THE SAME BECAUSE IT'S THE IDENTITY OF OUR STYLE.

YOU BELONG TO THE FIRST WAVE OF FRENCH BLACK METAL BANDS, AND THE FIRST TO BE SIGNED ON OSMOSE. SINCE, NEW FRENCH BANDS EMERGE AND GET SOME DEALS, EVEN ABROAD. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT IT ? DO YOU THINK IT WILL LAST OR IS IT JUST SOME FASHION ?

FRENCH BANDS THAT GET DEALS WITH LABELS, IT HAS ALWAYS EXISTED AND WILL STILL EXIST, EVEN IF THERE WAS A RISE LAST YEAR AND IT WENT DOWN SINCE. BUT NO FRENCH BAND CAN HOPE TO MAKE A CARRIER IN METAL AND I DON'T THINK IT WILL CHANGE IN THE FUTURE. IN FRANCE THERE ARE 2 KINDS OF BANDS : THOSE WHO SIGN ON SMALL INDIES LABELS, THEIR 1ST ALBUM IS SUPPORTED BY FRENCH REDACTORS JUST TO MAKE THEIR CONSCIENCE GOOD AND WHO BREAK (OR IGNORE) THEM ONCE THEY RELEASE THEIR 2ND ALBUM, BECAUSE THOSE BANDS ARE NOT COMMERCIAL ENOUGH, THE LABEL CAN'T AFFORD THE MONEY TO PAY ADS ON THE MAG, THE BANDS END SPLITTING BY LACK OF SUPPORT... THERE'S A SECOND KIND OF BANDS : THOSE WHO ARE MANAGED BY THE SAME REDACTORS (SO WE SEE ALWAYS THE SAME BANDS IN THE MAG) BUT WHO HAVE NO CHANCE TO BE EXPORTED BECAUSE THIS SYSTEM DOESN'T WORK ABROAD. AT LAST THERE'S A BAND THAT'S AN EXCEPTION : MISANTHROPE. ITS SINGER SAS DE L'ARGLIÈRE (PHILIPPE COURTOIS) IS THE HOLY RECS BOSS, AND SO HE PAYS ADS' PAGES TO MAGS, INVITES REDACTORS WHEN HE RECORDS IN SWEDEN, ETC... ALL BECOME EASIER FOR THEM, WEIRD, NOT ? WE'VE BEEN VICTIM OF THE 2 SYSTEMS : WHEN BEING SIGNED, WE HAD A 2 PAGES IN HARD ROCK MAG... ACTUALLY NICOLAS RADÉGOUT (OR RADIGUET, OR RAMAGET, HE'S STILL THE SAME...) WORKS BOTH FOR OSMOSE PROMOTION AND HARD ROCK MAG, ALL GOOD FOR US ... WHEN OSMOSE, LOOSENED US WHEN " THRASHEUR 13 " WENT OUT, NOBODY LIKED US ANYMORE, NO AD, NO INTERVIEW, NO PROMO... I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND BETTER NOW HOW METAL WORKS IN FRANCE...*(AND HOW A NEW FANZINE WILL BE DESTROYED DOWN BY DARING REPRODUCING THESE WORDS...ROCK N'ROLL -ED)*

THERE'S ONLY FRANK ARNAUD FROM HARD FORCE *(AND DECIBELS STORM ZINE – ED)* WHO STILL IS INDEPENDENT IN FRANCE, SO THE ONLY ONE TO BE HONEST : HE DOESN'T WORK FOR ANY LABEL, DOESN'T MANAGE ANY BAND, SO HE'S THE ONLY ONE TO SAY WHAT HE REALLY THINKS ABOUT THE BANDS HE REVIEWS, WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF ADS MONEY. WHERE DOES THE BAND COME FROM, WHAT STYLE DOES THEY PLAY... TOTAL INTEGRITY WE MUST UNDERLIGN NOT HIM TO BE CAUGHT IN THE SAME KIND OF REDACTORS. I KNOW I TAKE A LOT OF RISKS BY REVEALING THIS SYSTEM *(SO DO I... - ED)*, BUT IF EVERYBODY SHUTS DOWN, NOTHING WILL CHANGE AND FRANCE WILL STAY A POOR COUNTRY METAL SPEAKING ! ! !

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING ALBUMS :

INFERNO " UTTER HELL ". A VERY VERY GOOD BLACK/THRASH ALBUM, A PITY THEY COULDN'T RENEW THEIR STYLE ON " DOWNTOWN HADES "... BUT IT'S A RATHER NORMAL THING BECAUSE IT'S AN ALL-STAR BAND, FEATURING MANY NORWEGIAN BLACK METAL MEMBERS... WHEN THIS ALBUM WENT OUT, WE WERE SICK BECAUSE WE PLAYED THAT STYLE SINCE A LOT OF TIME AND WE DIDN'T GET NO DEAL, WHILE WE BELONGED TO THE FIRST TO DO IT... SINCE, IT'S BETTER FOR US, AH AH AH ! ! !

KREATOR " ENDORAMA " I DON'T LISTEN TO KRETAOR SINCE " RENEWAL " THAT WAS THEIR LAST JEWEL. I CAN'T JUDGE WHAT I DON'T KNOW.

IMMORTAL " AT THE HEART OF WINTER " I GOT THIS ONE ON CD, IT'S UNAVOIDABLE, THEIR BEST ALBUM FOR NOW.

SLAYER " REIGN IN BLOOD " A VERY GOOD ALBUM, BUT THERE WAS VOIVOD " WAR AND PAIN ", DESTRUCTION " INFERNAL OVERKILL ", CELTIC FROST " TO MEGA THERION " BEFORE... THEY DIDN'T INVENTED ANYTHING, ON THE CONTRARY TO WHAT HAS BEEN TOLD, IT'S JUST AN EVOLUTION OF THE SCENE OF THAT TIME.

AGRESSOR " NEVERENDING DESTINY IT'S FULL OF MEMORIES, I LOVE THIS ALBUM EVEN IF I PREFERED MASSACRA " FINAL HOLOCAUST " AT THAT TIME.

NOTRE DAME " LE THÉÂTRE DU VAMPIRE " PURE SHIT ! ! ! THIS BAND IS BUILT, LIKE KOVENANT, TO BE THE NEW COF OR DIMMU BORGIR... MUSICALLY SPEAKING THAT'S NOT GOOD BUT THEIR IMAGE AND THEIR PROMOTION IS MADE FOR YOU TO BUY THEIR ALBUMS EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT : EYEWASH...

AT LAST I KNOW IT EXISTS A DEMO RELEASED UNDER THE NAME OF OOJAU, FEATURING YOU AND A MEMBER OF AMSG ! GUESS, COULD YOU GIVE US MORE DETAILS ? AND BY THE WAY, WHAT DOES " OOJAU " MEAN ?

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU ASK ME ABOUT THIS, BECAUSE THE TAPE WILL BE RE-RELEASED WITH 2 OR 3 TRACKS MORE ! ! ! BUT ONLY ON TAPE, FIRST. I WAS ONLY TO MAKE THIS DEMO, AND UWW FROM DEO OCCIDI/AMSG ONLY DISTRIBUTED IT (VERY FEW, ACTUALLY). EVEN IF UWW IS KNOWN TO BE A NAZI (TOTALLY OPPOSED IDEOLOGY TO IMPERIAL), HE WAS ONE OF MY TRADERS FAR BEFORE HE GOT INTO THIS FASCIST SHIT, AND EVEN IF WE WERE IDEOLOGICALY OPPOSED, HE REMAINED A VERY GOOD FRIEND.

BACK TO THIS DEMO, IT WILL VERY SOON BE RE-RELEASED ON TAPE WITH 2 OR 3 UNRELEASED TRACKS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO SPEAK ABOUT IT NOW BECAUSE IT'S INDESCRIBABLE AND I'M WAITING FOR PEOPLE TO DO IT BEFORE ME. OOJAU IS THE NAME OF A MALIGNANT SPIRIT I'VE MET WHEN DOING SOME SPIRITISM, I FOUND IT VERY FUNNY SO I ADOPTED IT'S NAME... IT WAS IN 93/94, AND SINCE I NEVER KNEW WHAT IT MEANT TO BE, NOR TO WHOM IT BELONGED REALLY.

THANKS TO YOU, YOU'RE FREE TO CONCLUDE AS YOU WANT.

THANKS TO YOU FOR THE INTERVIEW, AND THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO MANAGED TO READ THIS UNTIL THE END... IF, WHEN READING THIS INTERVIEW, OUR ALBUM " MALMORT " IS NOT OUT, CONTACT ME TO IMPERIAL/6 RUE DES MESSAGES/13800 ISTRES/FRANCE. IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE DUBBING YOU IT ON A TAPE. THANKS.

EXKREMENT

Exkrement... a name appealing for grind core freaks... Actually, no. Exkrement is one of the last thrashing bands alive, and after reading this interview, you will see they are more serious they look like...

Can we consider Exkrement as a reincarnation of Asshole ?
Yes and no, because if the rhythmic section (guit and bass) is the same, David's voice and lyrics were very particular in Asshole. So I have the temptation to say that instrumentaly speaking there are big similitudes, but vocally speaking, it's more two guys who got into because they couldn't help doing it !
Exkrement sounds more like an Asshole from the " into the flying " era (just before CYTTOY LP), that evolved towards more melodies and aggressiveness than instrumental technique !

You play live with a drum machine. How does react the audience ? Do not they think you use some " play-back " ? And isn't it frustrating to play the songs the same way on records, thus not to allow you some improvisation ?
The present audience didn't seem to be offended, some have even confessed me they didn't pay any attention to this ! Personnaly speaking, I think it's easier for us to evolve with drum machine, because the songs on stage and on records have the same sonority ! We didn't get the chance to find real drummers able to reproduce what we wanted to listen to, and I must admit that we often had tracks that didn't sound as we wanted to. And I don't think that thrash/death metal is a kind of music that allows improvisation, so drum machine is not a problem.

Exkrement is set under the sign of humour, even if the music in itself is not very funny. Do you think that if you played black metal, you'd allow yourself so much derision ? Does humour fit more thrash or grind core than black metal ?
We always liked self-derision, it allows our detractors not to find any arguments against us ! I find absolutely ridiculous the bands that have a " king of metal " attitude or who give themselves an " evil " attitude. You must stay cool and as you are ! I think that, even if we were a black metal band, we still would be the same, always ready to talk rot and tell bunkum on stage ! This is an attitude which is deeply settled in us : we are not and we don't want to become serious (especially on stage !)

Do you like scatological porn movies ?
To take the risk to disappoint you, I never felt the need to watch this kind of stuff !

You label your music as some thrash-death-black-grind. As for me, I find it to be some thrash-death, with some episodic touches of black metal. But can you tell me in which songs we can hear some grind ?
In " rien pigé ", isn't it ? Actually it's true we are not grind professionals... We link the word grind to the drums rhythms, in which the snare drum plays at the same speed than the kick drum, so we have a problem to label our music ! But that's true that thrash-death is more truthful !

Why did you cover two Asshole songs on the MCD ?
First by nostalgy, and we had fun programing them for eventual concerts, and once we recorded them, they pleased us so much that we couldn't help including them ! I must say old tracks have been re-recorded, but as they didn't sound we left them besides.

In Asshole, you played live before several thousands of people in festivals in some eastern countries, some years ago. Since that, you have fallen in a certain deep anonymity. Do you wish for this era ?
Of course, who wouldn't do it if he were us ? But that's not the most important, I'm amongst all glad to see we still are in the scene after so many years ! Music is a passion I share with my brother, and it would hurt to stop it ! Our biggest pleasure is to be on stage and to share the madness along with the crazy audience !

The scene from Nancy is one of the biggest in France, including interesting bands like Mortuary, Depraved... How is it ? What are your relationships with the other bands ?
The scene from Nancy has decreased a lot for the last years, there are no longer places to play this kind of music (the mayoralty has stopped the " fête de la musique " -a french multi-music festival in every city during one day once a year- at the " Pépinière ", it has become an institution : more than ten brutal bands during one day, it was great !). So the bands from this area have suffered a lot from the consequences ! As for the relationships, it's just : " hello-good bye ", there's no mutual help, and that's a pity for a city that was once called the thrash capital ! But the authorities have their part of responsabilty in it, because as long as there will be no place to play, bands and audience will pay the price !

Considering the scatological concept of the band, do you like that great author, named De Sade ?
On that point, you'll be disappointed too : our literary culture stops to the absorption of magazines about home studio, sound takes, everything around dealing with SOUND ! The scato concept comes from the following fact : we're living in a world of shit, where everyone thinks only to themselves, where man doesn't see (or refuses to see) he's turning this planet into a garbage. A world in which we are shown " beautiful things " that other people miss ! Exkrement, that's all modern man is able to breed, he's turning nature into shit.

If I tell you the word " scorched ", you answer me...
Nothing at all, I'd prefer you to say " angel " and I'd answer " of death ", we smudge before Slayer since 1984 ! *(I was talking about the MCD of the finnish Excrement -ED)*

Although Exkrement has nothing to do with satanism, what's your belief about this philosophy ? Have you anti-christian views ? Do you think it's more blasphemous to burn a church than to shit in the holy water basin ?
If somebody finds himself in such or such religion, there's no reason for him to abstain, but he has not to disturb those who don't think the way he does ! People can have satanic views, but I don't agree if they desecrate tombs ! We have to tell ourselves nobody holds the truth, and this truth never stopped changing during the ages ! As for me, my philosophy is to respect everybody that respects me and I shit only in places allowed for that purpose, in there I do not disturb anyone !

To conclude, what is the future for Exkrement (new tracks, album...) ?
We're working now on six tracks. Once they are recorded, it's possible for us to release something (MCD or whatever...). We'll see, we'll take our time as usual anyway !

EXKREMENT
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The literature reviews section

NOCTURNAL CONSPIRACY
(fr) :ISSUE #3 1999
40 A4 XEROXED PAGES
WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

I recieved this fanzine a few months ago and it was a good surprise for me (as I didn't know their previous works...). The lay out is clear (can we say too clear ?) and the size of the font is big enough (as we don't need glasses to read the text). The interviews are

particulary interesting (this is the case of all of them) with opened questions dealing with the actuality of the bands and more personnal questions that make you discover the true face of these bands. In other way, the interviews are intelligent and bring something new (a fresh breath). Among the bands interviewed you will find CELESTIA, BIRTHRON, OPERA IX, JUDAS ISCARIOT and many more (more or less known in the UG. Also two zines' editors are interviewed : ETERNAL FIRE'zine and TOUCH OF EVIL'zine. All in all you will find 16 interviews plus the classical reviews about cds, demos.....
Last thing :this zine is strictly limited to 150 copies..... act fast ! !
Send 30ff/6us$ to : DONNER t./ 69 rue saint sébastien / 13 006 MARSEILLE / France.
Also available through THE WAY OF FORCE distro.

Lord Duke

THE DEAD SEA (uk) : ISSUE #3 1999
64 A4 PRO PRINTED PAGES ON GLOSSY PAPER
WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

That's what we can call a professionnal fanzine or a magazine as the quality is over the top. More and more fanzines have developped into a professionnal structure and it's perhaps a good point (except the money question.....) Anyway with THE DEAD SEA we have something very complete with tons of reviews of fanzines, cds, demos.....The typing is very clear even if I find the size of the font too low (perhaps my eyes are tired...). About the interviews, most of them are well written and the english is in a high level (for the non-english readers you will need the help of a dictionnary). Also the global sense of the questions is often evident and the answers can be understood without a lot of effort (the global sense of course ! ! !). I was particulary interested by the interviews with ROTTING CHRIST, EMPYRIUM, LIMBONIC ART and FALKENBACH. Also you will find among others, interviews of ABSU/ENSLAVED (live), ARCTURUS, EINHERJER, BAL SAGOTH....
Note that Nick stopped his activity with The Dead Sea, and personnaly I believe it's a shame because this was a quality fanzine....anyway you can follow his work in TERRORIZER now.....
Send 6us$ to : Nick MOBERLY / 125 fairmile lane / cobham / surrey KT11 2BU / England.
Available in France for 33ff through THE WAY OF FORCE distro.
P.S. :Perhaps a bad point :this black cover without design.....

Lord Duke

OSKOREI (nor) : ISSUE #3 1999
48 A4 PRO PRINTED PAGES
WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

Lars strikes back with his third issue which is better than the previous work. What an improvement since the beginning ! ! ! We have here a full colored cover on glossy paper and a free compilation CD. How is it possible to get this quality for this mercyful price ? The lay out is excellent (no less) with a background on all the pages showing always something different. You will find interviews with bands as : ENTHRONED, WITCHERY (once again), SUN OF THE SLEEPLESS (with EMPYRIUM's member), ANGELCORPSE.... (17 interviews all in all). The interviews are often interesting and Lars improved a lot in this way. Anyway readers as me expect more in depth questions and longer interviews. But don't misunderstand, it's worth reading ! ! !
Last point that disappointed me : the compilation CD. It's not as good as expected. The music is too varied in my taste.... But who cares ? Send without besitation 6us$ (before it's sold out) to OSKOREI magazine / p b 241 indre arna / 5888 Bergen / Norway.
E-mail : mail@oskorei.com.
Web-site : bttp://www.oskorei.com
Available in France for 30ff through THE WAY OF FORCE distro.

Lord Duke

MYSTICISM (swe) : ISSUE #3 1999
52 A4 PRO PRINTED PAGES
WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

The THYRFING crew comes back with a new issue of MYSTICISM magazine ! Here we have one of the best UG magazine coming from Sweden (the only one available so far ? ? ?). With this new issue you will find interviews with Andy La Roque, NOCTURNAL BREED, DIABOLICAL MASQUERADE, VINTERSORG/OTYG and many more..... The interviews with NOCTURNAL BREED and VINTERSORG make me know better these bands and I was very pleased to read them... Also you will find tons (yes tons ! !) of reviews of demos, cds, fanzines. Everything which works for the UG. The lay out is good (very good I must say), the font size is big enough. Nothing more to comment. Oh yes, you will find 12 interviews in this zine (perhaps it's a bit thin, isn't it ?). Anyway it's better than the previous issue and certainly less good than the next....
Feel free to send 6us$ to : P. Lindgren / Ryndelgränd 21 / 135 36 Tyresö / Sweden.
Available in France for 33ff through THE WAY OF FORCE distro

Lord Duke

TORNADO (den) : ISSUE #2 1999
44 A5 XEROXED PAGES ON QUALITY PAPER
WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

First of all I have to salute Ustumallagam for his great support of this gangrened UG scene. All my respect dirty poser (bu ! !). This second issue is without doubt better than the first one. This is essentially the interviews that are better.... Anyway, a few stereotyped questions would have been cancelled. It gets on my nerves to read answers to the same questions interviews after interviews. Most of the bands interviewed have something to say and the way of asking of Ustumallagam is quite good. Among others you will find interviews with IMPIETY, PUISSANCE, GRAND BELIAL'S KEY, ACHERON, SABBAT, NUNSLAUGHTER.....
The lay-out is good, the font is not so big but it's possible reading the text without having an headache. Oh yes, why not putting a summary in the beginning of the zine ?
At last, you will find tons of reviews of UG items including compilation tapes, demos, vinyls, cds and magazines. It's always fair and justified reviews. Hope this kind of zine will grow up with more and more interviews...
Send 5 bucks to : TORNADO zine / nørager 10 c 1 mf / 6400 Sønderborg / Denmark.
E-mail : Ghoul@get2net.dk
Available in France for 25ff through THE WAY OF FORCE distro.

Lord Duke

TANTRUMIZED (nor) : ISSUE #2
40 A4 XEROXED PAGES
WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

TANTRUMIZED is another zine coming from the land of frost called Norway. We are far here from the OSKOREI professionnal work. Anyway, the fanzine has its own quality. You will find 14 interviews of good UG bands as TAARE, AZURE, NOCTURNAL BREED, CENTINEX, OTYG/VINTERSORG....
The lay-out is very good and it's a pleasure to read this paper. About the interviews, they are more or less interessant because the way of asking questions is not so performant. I explain : sometimes the question is longer than the answer and it's a bit irritating. Another point is most of the interviews are too short ! ! But, all in all you will find good words of NOCTURNAL BREED, TAARE and AZURE. It's a lot of improvement since the first issue but it has to improve a lot for becoming one of the elite. The review session is cool and complete (with magazines, demos, albums) and Rikard is fair in his judgement (even if i don't always agree with him : DEVILRY is one of the best Rikard ! ! ! !). At last but not least the price is very attractive for this kind of product : 4us$.
Contact-address : TANTRUMIZED 'zine / Rikard JONSSON / Aarstadveren 17c / 5009 Bergen / Norway.
E-mail : tantrumized@iname.com
Available in France for 23ff through THE WAY OF FORCE distro. Also through FORGOTTEN WISDOM prod.

Lord Duke

MIMES BRUNN (nor) : STORM FRA VEST 1999
68 A4 PRO PRINTED PAGES ON GLOSSY PAPER
WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

Well, it's hard to begin this review....MIMES BRUNN is not a typical magazine at all. Odbinn, his author, is a quite particular person. First of all, you have to know that this magazine is not only about music but it speaks with various subjects too (lots of articles that odbinn appreciates). You will not read this paper in one or two hours but in one or two months ! ! It's very complete and your english knowledge must be good. Anyway, you will find interviews with AEON'zine, BEHEMOTH, ABIGOR, Baelder cofraternity, BISHOP OF HEXEN and more. The interviews are very long, complete and in depths. The way of asking of this guy is excellent (no less) that's why the interviews are never boring.... When you finish one, you want to keep on with another (if you have time enough of course ! ! !). The lay out is original with lots of self-made frames and borders. The fonts are big enough (even if it's quite small) and there are a lot of characters in one page....
Only two black points to notice : *the price is very high for UG production (7us$). I mean, who is interested enough to put 7 bucks in a UG magazine ? Anyway it's right that it's worth of money.
*the fanzine is quite old for the today's readers.....
If you are still interested (as I am) write to : MIMES BRUNN / box 1102 majorstuveen 17 / 0367 oslo / Norway.

Lord Duke

BELLEVAART (nl) : ISSUE #2 1999
64 A4 XEROXED PAGES
WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

I am trading tapes with Marjolijn, one of the zine's editor of BELLEVAART. This second issue is far better than the first one and I believe it's something natural, isn't it ? There is less lost space in this issue, so there are more informations, reviews and interviews. Anyway, I find most of the interviews are too short and it's a shame as we learn nothing at all on a few bands (as XENOMORPH or RAISE HELL f.e.). quite boring to read I must say. But, a few others are far better and only this few ones deserve attention for this zine ! ! ! Also the reviews section is quite interesting too, with fair judgements. I appreciate in particularity the demo reviews. About the lay-out, it's good and clear. The fonts are readable and it's enough for me. As I know how it's difficult to run a zine, I can only send all my encouragements to these Dutch guys who have the right spirit to make a good job. Perhaps the next issue wil be the best.... Who knows ? Support the UG and support BELLEVAART which truly works for the collapsed UG scene.

Send 6us$ to : AGM productions / Daguerrestraat 45 / 2561 TN Den Haag / Holland.

Available in France for 30ff through THE WAY OF FORCE distro.

P.S. : Oh yes, the bands featured : AETERNUS, MANEGARM, GUIDANCE OF SIN, EISREGEN, CENTINEX and many more (14 all in all).

Lord Duke

REVENANT (it) : ISSUE #2 1999
48 A4 PRO PRINTED PAGES
WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

Francesco strikes back with the second issue of REVENANT. What a lot of improvement since the first issue....This is now a near to professionnal work and it's so good. The lay-out has been done by Lars Jamne from OSRORE!'zine and for those who know this zine, this is the same quality (except the B/W cover). Well, now the the content : you can find here interesting interviews with SATYRICON, EMPEROR, CARPATHIAN FOREST, MORTUARY DRAPE, AETERNUS, ...AND OCEANS and more (for a total of 17 interviews). The way of asking of Francesco is good and it's always I enjoy reading his work. The interviews with SATYRICON is well done, that's no doubt. This zine is dedicated to the UG from the most famous to the most unknown and that's great. You will perhaps discover new talents when reading this paper. There are also reviews of demos and cds. Good work indeed. Anyway one critic : some interviews would have been longer with more personal questions. But, when the interviewee doesn't care much like that it's difficult to release a good interview ! ! ! !

It's worth buying this magazine than any others national and musical crappy papers which smell money, money and money.

Send 5 us$ to : REVENANT / Parmigiano Francesco / Piazza Liberta 52 / 20010 Cornaredo (Milano) / Italy.

Available in France for 28ff through THE WAY OF FORCE distro.

Lord Duke

LETHARGIE (Fra) : ISSUE #1 1999
50 A4 XEROXED PAGES
WRITTEN IN FRENCH

This is a new UG fanzine dealing with UG but also more commercial bands : Behemoth, Marduk, My Dying Bride, Celestia, Maniac Butcher, Tsjuder... Note there are also articles about Pre-raphaelism in paint, death in Middle-Ages. I must say that I didn't read them till the end... But I think that the main interesting point is the Norwegian BM file, i.e many information about Darkthrone and Satyricon : interviews samples, discography, biography... Really interesting. There are a lot of photos, especially Marduk on stage, but the printing isn't great so it suffers a bit. There are also few demos reviews and one article has not its place here : a lesbian who draws dark-fashion wearings ? ? ? well, let's say that it's a debut error... But the whole is very interesting and as the guys are serious, you should be aware of it ! I hope that next issue will be in english so that more people could read it. Send 25$$ to : Lethargie / BP 1702 / 87025 Limoges Cedex / France

Also available through Forgotten Wisdom Prod distro

LES LITANIES DE SATAN (Ger/Pol) : ISSUE #5 1998
64 A4 XEROXED PAGES
WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

Les Litanies de Satan has its name in french but the redactor is polish and lives in Germany. This is Europe ! Well, this zine is real UG like, due to the typewriter, there are a few photos and the pages are totally filled, no lost place ! the borders are hand-made, that adds to the zine an aura of book of darkness. All the interviewed bands are BM bands. Among them, there are Aeternus, Skyforger, Prophecy, Warloghe, Silauros, Uranus... One astonishing thing is that there are absolutely NO reviews at all. The whole mag is filled with interviews or bands biographies, except for a few advertising pages. The redactor is as I said polish and shares the extreme vision of this scene. In all interviews, the same kind of question comes back : are you nationalist ? Do you like swastika ? This tends to be boring after a while. Well, this is a real UG zine, not for everyone. Send 5$ to LLDS distr / Haberstr. 29 / 65428 RÜSSELSHEIM/ GERMANY

Also available through Forgotten Wisdom Prod

Once again, an interview to be featured on my mail-order list. This is why there are few questions. When reading the content, keep in mind that the questions were sent before that the band released the live tape. Well, now, I invite you to read how Fureïss (vox) and DNT (bass) define the Celestia concept...

Past, present and future of Celestia ?

Celestia was formed by Sir Noctu in 1995. In 1997, he released the first demo, "Evanescence". In 1998, Fureïss joined Celestia. This union gives birth to a mcd, "A cave full of baths". In 1999, DNT comes as bassist and Kriss as drummer. Currently, Celestia prepare an european tour and work on their debut album which should be released this year.

If we follow the etymology of the word, Celestia calls in mind the relativity to the sky. Celestia's music is ethereal, you tell your music of "ethereal black metal". So can we speak about a "concept band"? We can also say that Celestia refers to the divine, sky opposed to hell, i. e heaven. Is it a provocating taste or are you simply Christians ?

We aren't christian adepts. To me, the name Celestia means beauty, absolute perfection, inaccessible to the pretty humans. It means that the natural elements are very powerful in regards with humanity. I think that the humans are too pretentious, they unconsciously want to dominate the natural strenght.

In fact, it's right that this name takes the sense of a god – not a christian god – or any other one, Celestia is like an invisible, supreme spirit, an ethereal presence.

What do the MCD's lyrics deal with ? If I judge with the tracks' names, I guess solitude is one of your themas, as well as isolation, as the words "cave, silent, castle, forest, prisoner" let it to be supposed.

Indeed, solitude is an important topic through the lyrics of Celestia. Actually, it is a very important part of the Celestia concept. It can be felt through almost every songs.

The lyrics of Celestia (in general, not on the mcd only) are quite abstract. They're not like tales or the transmission of some messages/ideas, they're more like an ejaculation of the spirit provoked by some peculiar states of mind. The words give a certain image, but the meaning of the whole can be varied and much more deep than what it primarily seems to be.

On the MCD's photos, you don't appear made-up, but I saw photos on which you wore corpse-paint. Has corpse-paint an importance for you, as an underground band ? (when we can see all those new bands made-up and wearing spikes and swords in the winter forest !)

The use of corpse-paints in Celestia is linked to Celestia only, not to any Metal tradition. Our corpse-paint are a part of Celestia. It's a way to materialize some aspects of Celestia. It's an important thing for us, it has a special meaning ; be sure we don't put paints on for fun or to look evil. Celestia is such a vast concept that I think our visual appearances can be quite diverse.

Appearances with or without corpse-paints both fit Celestia. It's up to us to decide how things should be or not. Our image will keep on developping throughout time, according to our will and state of mind. Maybe will it still be corpse-paints, maybe will it be blood, masks, uniforms, nudity, chains and spikes or whatever, anyway, it will still be pure Celestia.

I read in Franang zine #4 you performed live. Do the ethereal side and subtilities of your music not vanish, leaving place only to brutality and pure energy ? (as Misanthrope emphasizes its brutal side live)

Listen to our live tape or come to one of our concerts and make your own opinion. I personally think both aspects (brutal and ethereal) are present on stage, altogether with darkness, insanity, filth, decadence, sorrow, etc... Celestia remains Celestia on stage. We're not posers. What we produce in studio, we can reproduce it on stage, maybe with more intensity as there also is the impact of the material presence.

Okay, thank you for those answers. A sentence to conclude ?

"I wonder about life even though death is close".

Celestia
69 rue St sébastien
13006 MARSEILLE
France

J.R.R. Tolkien

1892-1973

BURZUM, ISENGARD, GORGOROTH, MORGOTH for the most famous, but also HIRILORN, CIRITH GORGOR, ARATHORN, MORDOR, GALADRIEL, all theses bands' names have been picked out from Tolkien's universe.

Everyone of you has already or should have read these magical books that are the Lord of the Rings or the Silmarillon. I guess you know the story : the quest for the ring of power, the strife between good and evil... So I won't speak about the story in itself, but about its creator, the genius who invented that world, JRR Tolkien.

First, I think it's interesting to know what " Tolkien " means. It belongs to JRR's ancestors, who were Germans. " Tolkien " is a derivative of the word Tollkühn, that in old german means foolhardy, a name that fits pretty well the legend...

Although he was born in South Africa in 1892, JRR was english (that's maybe why the Hobbits, the people he created and loved that much, are so english-like...). Tolkien's childhood took an important place for his future author life. His father died when he was a young boy. So he grew up with his mother and his brother Hilary in England, in the countryside. This landscape and environment he lived in marked him as he could have not lived in an other place. But when he was 12, his mother died from diabetes. Thus, Ronald became an orphan. This loss of both his parents when he's just a child finds itself in his books and stories: the king and the queen are eternal people among the Elves, full of strenght and goodness. Celeborn and Galadriel are a kind of homage to Tolkien's parents, Arthur (? ? ? ? this was written ! ! !) and Mabel. When Galadriel speaks to Frodo, we can imagine that Tolkien is Frodo, a little boy charmed by his mother, a tall woman full of splendour...

By the way, Tolkien features only a few women in his books. And they are always beautiful and clever, idealized by the memories he had from his mother. All along his life, he'll know only one woman, Edith Bratt, an orphan he met when he was 16. He'll marry her in 1916, after he battled in France, during the first world war. He'll love her until his death, in 1973, even if he prefered the company of his friend (Hey, I didn't mean he was a faggot, understood ?).

Tolkien is the only man to have created an entire language, with its history and derivative, that makes one of the numerous characteristics of his work. He picked up language elements in numerous real old languages, as german, english or celt. But it goes further than that. As a child, John Ronald created along with his cousin Mary a language called Nevbosh, a mix of english, latin and pure invention. At high school, he studied for himself old nordic and medieval english for hours. Later on, after his studies in Oxford, he returned there to become a Lecturer, then in Leeds to be a Reader, then a Professor, then, back in Oxford until retirement. He was a specialist in Mercian, language spoken in England in the years 450-1150 after Bastard Birth, as well as old german (gothic and norron) languages.

He was a lover of languages and words, a real philologist. He created his own languages because of the poetic dimension that was contained in the old european languages. So he created " quenyan " with finnish, and he copied closely phonetically speaking the " sindarin " upon welsh. Moreover, he's been inspired from medieval language, from european countries. We can find finnish in the name of Gandalf, celt with the hero Gil-Galad, etc...

He was interested in languages thanks to what was written, i.e old legends, myths.

Tolkien has created a real myhtology, with its gods, heroes, demons, battles and even world's creation. As a child, John Ronald was fond of legends and fairy tales. Along with his brother, they invented themselves a world where the miller became the white ogre and the old gardener the black ogre. He loved reading tales about Arthur and a nordic hero, Sigurd.

When he wrote the Lord of the Rings, Tolkien included aventures giving spice to the quest of his heroes. As many legends and tales, the Lord of the Rings is a quest. The quest for the ring, as it is for Die Niebelungen, the golden fleece for Jason, Queen Gwenyver for Lancelot. Tales seem to be always quests.

Many characters and places have been inspired by old legends, mainly german and celt. The dwarves living underground and forging weapons and the ring are taken from Norse mythology, the quest for the ring, the wolf of Angband eating the hand of a hero is Fenrir eating Tyr's hand.

One fundamental element in old european myths is also present in Tolkien's world and mind : nature. He grew in and learnt to love the surrounding landscape, the british country. In his books, nature has two sides : good, it gives people food and protection, some elves' tribes live within the forest, and some, the " green elves " hide in the forests so much that legends say they're real sons of nature. The hobbits live in burrows, some half-burried houses, covered with lawn, like icelandic houses. But nature can be also dangerous. For instance, Frodo's friends have been seized by a living tree. The desolated plains of Gorgoroth are cursed. Nature has an ambivalent role. If you respect it, it will help you and maybe protect you. Beware of ill-treating it !

There, we can ask a question. Was tolkien a paganist ? Hem... actually, not. He was what we call a damn filthy christian. He believed in God, as his beloved mother did. Anyway, remind you how does the Lord of the Ring ends, who wins ? Good or evil ? That's it. Now that we know the truth, how should we consider Tolkien ? As for me, I still worship him, and if he had not been the man he was, would he have written so amazing stories ?

We can also find some Bible influences in Middle Earth story, as its very first pages : the first, Eru, created the Ainur, the Blessed Ones, we can easily say they are the angels in judeo-christian genesis. The Ainur formed a group, sung together, creating an harmony, but individuality didn't exist. Finally the music filled the void and void no longer was. But an Ainur didn't follow Eru's path. He mixed to the thema his own thoughts, willing to increase his part's power and glory. This Ainur was called Melkor and was the most intelligent and powerful blessed one. We can draw the Melkor/Lucifer analogy. Melkor brought different musical parts due to his journeys into the void spaces and his will to fill the void, creating solitude in him. His parts made discordance in the melody and the other Ainu hesitated and began to follow Melkor instead of Eru. If everybody played some Beethoven and someone came playing some Wagner. So there was a musical battle between Eru and Melkor. Melkor played a noisy, repetitive, violent music. Thus we can say that Melkor was the first one ever to play black metal, eh eh...

Then, Eru talked to Melkor and the Ainur were filled with shame and anger. The first negative fee-

ling was born : anger. Tolkien invented good and evil, by basing himself on the biblical l(ie ?)egend. Lucifer was the most beautiful and intelligent angel, and he suggested God something else, and was rejected. Then, Melkor became Morgoth, as Lucifer became Satan. Once this change done, Tolkien creates his own vision: Morgoth has got far more power than Satan, because he's not imprisoned in Hell, but lives on Middle-Earth. He has two powers: a temptation power, as Satan owns, he can turn good people into evil people and possess them as his slaves and/or warriors and always servants. But the second power is phisycally. He is, he lives on earth, in a fortress, he can take part to the battle. He leads his army to war. His power is greater than Satan's one.

Back to Tolkien's influences now. He picked out from his dreams some elements, like caves, big trees, quiet water, soul mirrors, eagles, that are oniric psychanilitic symbols. One other great author that had been influenced by his oniric visions, dreams or nightmares, was Lovecraft, but in an other kind of vision...

If Tolkien was a good author (I guess you already noticed it), he was also an accomplished artist. All his poems were compiled in a book, and some of of his drawings and paints have been included in some special editions of the Lord of the Ring, etc... He made some watercolours, black ink drawings representing episods of Middle Earth stories, like dragons, landscapes... He mastered also in the art of calligraphy, creating runes, floral alphabets. Both calligraphy and paintings were compiled in the maps he drew from Middle Earth.

So, I think I've introduced you a part of what was J.R.R Tolkien, enlighting on some points things that could have been vague. Of course there are tons of books that explain in hundred ways how Tolkien was and how he imagined and wrote his books. I will content myself with giving you some references:

Books
Le bréviaire du Hobbit / David Day
JRR Tolkien, a biography / Humphrey Carpenter
JRR Tolkien, artist and illustrator / Wayne G. Hammond, Christina Scull
Tolkien, les univers d'un magicien / Nicolas Bonnal
Tolkien's ring / David Day

Videos
A JRR Tolkien's portrait / Derek Bailley
The lord of the rings / Ralph Balshi

Webrings (too many to mention, so here are a few)
members.aol.com/jtolein/quotesh.htm
www.chez.com/morgoth
www.csclub.uwaterloo.ca/u/relipper/tolkien
www.multimania.com/lafee

You surely have already heard of Uranus, as their demo, « the clang of lances » has sold pretty well. Now it's time to meet Orpheus and to know more about this band...

VRANVS

Hail, how is Uranus going by now ? Could you remind us the story of Uranus ?
Well, URANUS began back in the year 1994 when Orpheus was met together with Thanatos. By making the first ever line-up of URANUS, the first demo release was soon a reality. " Advance tape " back in year 1996 made the band well known to the underground. Year 1998 we released " the clang of lances " demo. It was a very big success for the band. Now at middle of 1999 we have our debut CD release " Heathendome " seeing the light of day. It's a self financed release, new studio, new producer, new line up : Orpheus (vox + guitars), Kyveli (fem-vox), Koryvas (keyboards), Ophion (bass guit.), Demon 666 (drums). We've already did 350 copies till now and still we keep our hopes high for the future.

How many " clang of lances " demo have you sold until now ?
It was an unexpected success for URANUS. We did around 1.400 copies, we got triumphic reviews by the underground press and established the band, as one of the most unique and strong acts emerging from Hellenic underground scene.

Your music is inspired by old black greek bands, like old Rotting Christ, old Nightfall... how do you see the greek scene in Metal and Black Metal history ?
Yes, definitely I still listen to bands like Rotting Christ, Septic Flesh etc. They're all great bands. Today they play in a different way, but still kick ass. About local scene ? That's difficult to talk about, since due to certain personal problems I had to be cut off from all action involving Greek black metal. I'm staying far away from Athens and don't know many things about what's going on at the moment. Maybe that's for the best. That way I can make my own future and still keep my band's unique personal sound.

What do you think about the evolution of greek old bands like Rotting Christ, Nightfall or Septic Flesh, whose music

is no longer dark, but mainstream and commercial ?
Let's say they're doing something different. I still like Rotting Christ and Septic Flesh, but not Nightfall anymore. In a way nothing stays the same. If you can't change and do something different you might as well die, as an artist.

I particulary like the song " the clang of lances " on your demo. Could you tell us more about it, and who did the female vocals ?
Vocals part is being done by Kyveli, a girl I know for a long time. She is now trying to prove herself abroad and therefore we may not cooperate again. " Clang of lances " is about an undead hero that breaks off the underworld and returns back on earth to hunt down all yellow, miserable old companions. The undead hero shows no mercy and lusts for blood.

Some of your songs are in cyrillic. What does they mean ?
Some of my songs are in ancient Hellenic, my ancestor's language. " Χθόνιε Σ□ηττούχε " is a title for the lord of the underground Pluton. " Δελφι□όν " is about the ancient oracle of Delphi, the center of all ancient Helenic world. My favourite god Apollo was worshipped there. I've visited this place lots of time and always feels so deeply emotional

In Greek, Ouranos means " sky ", is your band's name a reference to the gods palace, the Olympus mount ?
Yes, but also is the name of first ever king of the universe, following the times of chaos. URANUS was the father of all gods and humans, married to his wife Gaïa started life on earth. Unfortunately it all turned to today's miserable and hatefull human race.

Don't you think war has lost its romantic side ? In Middle-Ages or in Antiquity, heroes fought in front of their enemies, the sword in hand. Today, a sniper can kill many people, by night and several miles away from his enemies ! Today the clang of lances has shut...
Of course it did. Iraklitos, the ancient philosopher used to say that war is father of all. War tests human boundaries, virtues and strenght. What's going on in today's techno-world looks like a video-game more.

Do you know australian band Baltak ? They stand for the glory of the ancient Macedonia.
No, I don't know, though I'm too suspicious about all nationalistic bands that stand for their ancient inheritage. Most of them are ignorant and therefore ridiculous in some ways.

Do you think that one must be a satanist to support war against christianity ?
In my opinion a Satanist supports Christianity. Satanism and Christianity is two sides of the same story. Both need each other in order to keep existing. It's sick. I don't want to be any part in today's Christian world, I didn't celebrate that fucking Christian millenium, I'm paganist, a heathen that fears of no god, of no unearthly out of this world detecting tyrant-god.

Well, thank you, it's up to you to conclude...
Nothing... support Thomas and his zine.

Uranus
PR 15601
Papagou, Athens
Greece

JUDAS ISCARIOT

Judas Iscariot, with its third album, « Heaven in Flames », shows us that America doesn' bring only brutal death metal or black/death metal bands. Judas Iscariot is a very good black metal band, deserving through its influences to belong to Europe. Actually he does it because Akhenaten, the soul behind it has moved to Germany.

Hail Akhenaten ! Could you tell us more about the "Heaven in flames" album, please ?
Judas Iscariot "Heaven in flames" was recorded in 1998 in total hatred and visions of subhuman genocide. The album wasn't released on CD until 2000, but it was graced before that with cassette (At War) and LP versions (End All Life). This album represents yet another chapter in the legacy of Judas Iscariot's grim Black Metal war.

Judas Iscariot is your own project, but you've been helped by someone (M. Timlin) for the recording of this album. Who is this guy ? And which instruments do you play ?
M.Timlin helped in some technical aspects of the recording process, to give more spiritual depth to the music. But as usual, Akhenaten IS Judas Iscariot. NO COMPROMISES !! M.Timlin is simply a misanthropic soul who helped bring more hateful music to the masses.

On the photos I saw from you, you wore some Graveland or Veles t-shirts. Do you like the polish scene ? Which are your favorite bands from this country ?
Yes, the Polish and French undergrounds are some of the best in the world right now. I am also a fan of many bands from the German underground, namely Moonblood, Katharsis, Lunar Aurora and Nargaroth. My favorite bands of the Polish scene are those from the days 1993-1997: Graveland, Infernum (RIP), Thunderbolt (first demo mostly), Fullmoon (RIP), Perunwit, etc.. Some of the newer Polish bands are not to my liking.

I think your style is totally european-like, with strong influences from Norway (Darkthrone, Burzum) and Poland (Graveland). Don't you like US black/death, like Possessed, Morbid Angel.... ?
Yes, of course I like this kind of music but these are not influences on Judas Iscariot. I would say the most important MUSICAL influences on Judas Iscariot are the following three albums:
1) Darkthrone "Transylvanian Hunger"
2) Burzum "Det Som Engang Var"
3) Graveland "Celtic Winter"
But of course my band has many NON musical influences... I am inspired by the cold winter, wicked philosophy and visions of the total annihilation of mankind.

According to you, Judas is to be known as a traitor or a hero ?
Neither. His name represents ANTI-Christianity. Therefore I took his name.

What would you prefer ? releasing a limited to 500 and B/W covered album on a small label, or an album with a big production on a major label, including international tours, money, and being well-known worldwide ?
I always prefer the way of the underground. There is no compromise in this answer. I hate the music "industry" and want nothing to do with it. I deal with labels who are personal comrades of mine and I have no interest in dealing with some industry losers. I am not looking for fame or money, I just want to spread unholy black metal as an expression of the deepest and blackest pits of my unpure heart.

The " Heaven in flames " album is also released on vinyl format through EAL Recs. Do you like vinyls ? Has it a special meaning for you?
Yes, of course I love vinyl releases. The sound of vinyl just enhances the impurity of the black metal sound. "Heaven in Flames" is an especially "raw" album and with the inclusion of vinyl it sounds even more as if coming from the deepest pits of hell. NOON-BLOOD "Blut & krieg" is the ultimate BM album on vinyl.

You play also in a death/black band, Sarcophagus. I heard you also have a second BM project, in the vein of Graveland. Tell us more about it !
Sarcophagus is simply death/black metal, as you say. Very fast drumming and gut-wrenching vocals. This other project you are talking about is a very obscure project called Weltmacht, which draws influences from the cult Polish BM scene!

Is it easy to live in a country that thinks to be the world ruler, with a so narrow-minded mentality, when you feel belonging to Europe ? How does people react to your musical style ?
No !! America was a very bad place for me to live, therefore I moved to Germany in late 1999. I have been here since and I will stay as long as my residency permits last. The only thing I miss about the US underground is the USBM scene which is getting stronger every day ! I send my praise to my brothers on North American shores ! One day this scene will get the recognition it deserves.

If Europe declared war to USA (or will declare, if USA keep trying to enslave us...), in which side would you fight ?
I'd do whatever I can to bring about the fucking apocalypse. TOTAL DEATH !

Thanks Akhenaten, you're free to conclude as you want.
Hail to Antaeus, Osculum Infame, Drakkar Prod, Prophecy, Chanteloup Prod, Arkdae, and all my great brothers in the kingdom of France. VICTORY WILL BE OURS !!

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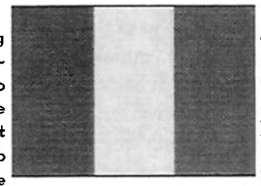
Romanian Scene Report

The eastern scene has spread its bands for some years now, since the fall of the Communishit. If Poland and Czech Republic bands are well known from us now, what is to say about the other countries ? Negura Bunget has proven that Romania was not the last country to own good acts. So, for this first issue of Darkness Treasures, I asked my brother Mihai from Axa Valaha 'zine to bring some light on metal history and scene in Romania. Time to let you talk, Mihai !

Before I start this report I want to thank Lord Azmoth because he offered me the chance to realize this stuff for his 'zine. It is a pleasure and a honour for me to help a Celt brother in an underground battle! I wish good luck and all the best for this friend of mine and his 'zine.*(one thousand thanks Mihai !- ED)*

Simply, I must say that the Romanian Underground is a good one! Not so fuckin' rich or known, as the german or U.S. scenes are, but definitely good. I decided to direct this report in extreme metal only because this 'zine of Lord Azmoth is about this, but I can't ignore that we have a lot of good bands in progressive, melodic area, as Dirty Shirt or Voices of Silence are! By the way, if you are open-minded Voices of Silence is so good for every metal fanatic because they are simply artists (not in the vulgar way of the world)!



And now about the extreme metal area!!! Our cult band is Negura Bunget, a black metal horde that released one demo and two CD's under the wings of Breath of Night Rec.(you know, Akenathen from Judas Iscariot) and Bestial Records. Their music is based on Northern style and their concept is about the ancient feelings of our ancestors, the Dacians. Also in the black metal area are hordes like Irkalla (my own band, a true Wallachian Satanic act), Dies Irae (death \black in a strange way, with an obscure philosophical concept) or Cerulean Gates (death\black influenced by C.O.F and Dimmu Borgir, obsessed by the eternal fall !!!). As you see, we don't have a lot of bands, but all of them have a word to say in our underground!

Death metal scene has some good bands, especially because the Romanian musicians are very interested to play in a technique way. I think that the best romanian death metal band is Avatar (by the way, they are very good friends of mine, but that is another story and you can be sure that I am very objective now); they released two demo tapes and they will visit a studio in march 2000 to record their debut cassLP at Bestial Records. Other strong death band is Korruption, with their album "Slaves of Darkness". As they told me, their favorite band is Deicide and a very good thing is that the singer Grama has a so majestic growl (you know Chris Barnes from Cannibal Corpse?!). There are also Deimos (that mixed death with thrash and industrial on their debut album named "Insane"), Taine (a mixture of Death, Cynic and Dream Theater in Romanian version) and Makrothumia (a R.I.P band that played death\jazz!!!). I can't forget the new bands in death metal style: Tenebre, Schtephan and others!!! The gothic\doom area is filled with bands, maybe because this style is (was) very appreciated these years !!!

Maybe the best band is Grimegod with their very emotional

doom with gothic touches. They have a great demo and two albums released (the last one contains a cover from Depeche Mode) and they will release "With Broken Wings" LP in 2000. Also I want to mention Kratos (try « Looking Behind the Mirror » LP), Serenity (a track with this band is available on Metal Age compilation CD from Czech Rep.), Abigail (are you alive, boys??), Gothic (RIP),Interitus Dei (RIP) Saga (I liked very much their promo "Vampiria"..I forgot to mention Funeral Ceremony, a strong gothic \death\black band that just released their debut LP at PROMusic Records. And we have also the great project RA of Vlad Dracul from the well-known Agathodaimon. As I saw, this stuff is distributed in Germany through Nuclear Blast! There are also Anguish, Icon of Sin and a lot more! Our gothic rules!!! Talking about non-metal, I consider that Archaos and Thy Veils are good choices for the ambient fans. By the way, our Archaos uses French lyrics! Can I trust your interest ?

So, we have a good (not sublime) underground. Unfortunately there are not so many people interested in metal! There are a lot of cock-suckers, metal fans for a summer! Fuck off!!!

There are only two official metal labels (Bestial&ProMusic) and not so many distro's (my Axa Valaha ,Titus distro, Beauty of Pain) and also 'zines (Infernal, UG Chronicle, my Axa Valaha, Jewcide-fuck cock suckers !!!). As you see we have friends and enemies, we are good and bad, we are Latin!!! Hope that you are enough interested to take a pencil and write a letter for some extra infos. Send letters or e-mail messages at my address:

AXA VALAHA
C\o MIHAI CARAVETEANU
St. VICTORIEI, bl.M4, sc.D , apt .11
TURNU MAGURELE, TR.
ROMANIA
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SOUTH EAST OF ASIA IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS ANCIENT WISDOM. ITS GIRLS (AMERICANS SEEM TO LIKE THEM AS THEY STAYED THERE FOR A WHILE, EH EH...). ITS CRAZY KUNG FU MOVIES... BUT WHAT ABOUT ITS TRUE UG SCENE? IT SEEMS THAT IMPIETY IS THE LEADER OF THE WHOLE SOUTHERN-EASTERN SCENE. AND FUCK THEY DESERVE IT! IF ANTI-CHRISTIAN WARRIORS MISS IN EUROPE. I GUESS WE COULD GET A HAND FROM DOWN THERE!

Hail Shyaithan, could you introduce Impiety for the 4 last people that don't know your band yet, please ?

IMPIETY is the most wicked, terroristic hellforce ever to have emerged from the Far Fuckin' East! We have been in existance since 1990 released a demo "C.N.R." in '92. Then, mid-'93 a 2 song "Salve the Goat... Iblis Exelsi" 7" EP was released under Shivadarshana Recs. Shortly after, followed by our debut full-length album in 95 "Asateerul Awaleen" , also under the same label. In 1996 we released a 4 song cassette ep "Funeralight..." under an independant underground Malaysian label (Ultrahingax Prod.). In 1999, finally the fucking world came to an end...haha.. No, actually I meant that the 2nd album that your ears have just mercilessly bled to was released.

You've released your new album, " skullfucking armageddon ", could you tell us about it, please ?

"Skullfucking Armageddon" features 8 nuklear barbaric, christfucking war anthems...we recorded that in January 1999... It's the best album from us to date! Well, our advice is to buy it (or steal it), aurally torment yourselves, bang to the apokalyptik steel holocaust and fucking die!!!

I find that your music sounds like Immortal on " Battles in the north " from time to time. Do you agree with me ? I read in Oskorei that you worshipped german thrash metal, what about scandinavian BM ? Do you, as a man whose culture is totally different as ours, understand this North thing?

IMMORTAL sounds like IMPIETY from time to time... and not vice versa, haha. I don't know if we sound like them or not... but, anyway they're a great and very established band of the 90s. Yes, besides totally drowning our souls in mid/late 80s German thrash... we listen to a lot of other black/death metal bands but of course, preference is always for raw, barbaric and hateful metal! As for Scandinavian BM... well I'll just say that I appreciate the blasphemous metal assaut and existance of bands like DARK FUNERAL, UNPURE, NIFELHEIM, MARDUK, TRIUMPHATOR, BARATHRUM, HORNA and yes, DARKTHRONE and IMMORTAL as well...

As I said, you live in Singapour, a country from Asia where the culture is not the same than in Europe. You play some metal, that has its roots in Europe. How does react people from your country face to this attitude/ music ? Did you ever had some problems with it, I mean integrists, jerks...

Well it's great that metal is not accepted at all by society over here. Death to the population, we personally don't care what they say or think about our infernal breed of metal. We are the most extreme of motherfuckers over here so no one dares crosses paths with us. The only shit thing is the government... who will try everything to nail our asses to a big, black inverted cross if they were to know of the terrorism we deliver. No problems with the cops yet, and like I said... there's no telling what might happen in future. Still, we don't give a fuck what society stands for and thinks about us, our bestial wrath and blasphemizing war anthems in general.

How is Impiety on stage ? Is the audience totally crazy ? What's your best live memory as playing and as being an headbanger ?

IMPIETY is totally destructive on stage... best Live carnage was just recently an apokalypse we delivered in Thailand March 2000

to promote the new album... arrrggghhh... fucking craziest of maniacs and hellbangers totally in full support! Another might perhaps be the hellslaughter we delivered in Indonesia in Nov 99 in front of 4000 infernal metal demons!!! As a headbanger...? Well, I guess I did enjoy ANGEL CORPSE's set when they play in London in Oct 99 to promote their new album... my skull never went thru such torment before and I was a complete hellbanging maniac for 45 mins straight, and without a beer in my hand! I could have sworn I had a beer in my hand before their set started...

Do you think that future of Black Metal will go through revisiting the 80's thrash or death metal bands ? Is Black Metal timeless or can it change with the years, with more technologic influences (I don't speak about Kovenant or Morgul !) ?

Well, it has evolved since the 80s till now... for good or for worse, black/death/thrash metal will always evolve for that matter. Bands that are innovative are much appreciated by me. To a certain extent of course. No matter what, I faithfully believe in tradition and bands that keep delivering pure BM or DM the raw and unholy way are hailed! In fact many of the established BM bands are implementing death metal or thrash riffs... some BM bands are even playing total DM now. Strange, but it's all so true. But like I said earlier, We'll always stick to tradition man..the savage desecration we've delivered all along has been the very same, we've been playing since day one!

pore has a small underworld of around 15-20 black/death metal bands, Malaysia has a bigger scene boasting about nearly 35- 40 black/death metal bands. Thailand has 6-7 Black/death metal bands. They have a small scene but the craziest of steel maniacs! I don't know about the Philippines... *(you don't know about Kratornas ? ? ? Shame on you my friend !-ED)* but have heard they have the same amount of bands as Thailand. Indonesia has the largest South East Asian Metal Underground with OVER 60 black/death metal bands!!! So, never underestimate the metal wrath this side of the fucking planet!

You're signed on asian labels. Don't you want to be signed on European or American labels ? Do you want to remain there, or to conquer this part of the world where the metal market is more open and can buy more ? How is the scene in Singapour, are there relationships between the different countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapour, Indonesia, maybe Japan ?)

Well, we are on the verge to signing a new album deal with Merciless Recs. Well, time will tell... we're still negotiating certain terms and conditions right now. Yes, the South East Asian Metal Underground very much united, is growing stronger every day... Singapore has a small underworld of around 15-20 black/death metal bands, Malaysia has a bigger scene boasting about nearly 35- 40 black/death metal bands. Thailand has 6-7 Black/death metal bands. They have a small scene but the craziest of steel maniacs! I don't know about the Philippines... *(you don't know about Kratornas ? ? ? Shame on you my friend !-ED)* but have heard they have the same amount of bands as Thailand. Indonesia has the largest South East Asian Metal Underground with OVER 60 black/death metal bands!!! So, never underestimate the metal wrath this side of the fucking planet!

The last track on the skullfucking album, " Torment ", seems to be a cover song (as I only have a dubbed version of this album, shame on me). What's about it ?

It's not a cover song... though perceived by many to be. Torment in Fire is about the prime pleasures of burning in Hell... yes, a pleasurable torment indeed! Let the flames lick, tear and burn our mortal flesh in satanic war-metal victory! Also it's A final Ironfist in the fucking face of God of this album. I was drunk when I wrote this one... so I guess it's best appreciated with a beer in one hand and raising your fist with devil's horns in another while banging your head in the name of Satan, till it finally fuckin' falls off...

You're into the UG scene since many years now. Don't you get tired by it? I mean there are so many posers, trendies, rip-offs, gay pussies... What does give you the guts to keep on (maybe groupies...) ?

Tired...??? NEVER... a little sick sometimes to see it desecrated by feeble little kids who think they know everything. Yes, they seem to know more that Satan himself. FUCK THESE KIDS, they should be in school and not into metal at all! Trendies and Posercorpses are abundantly everywhere today but they seem to fade away fast cos fact is Only the mightiest of warriors prevaileth! The blood of Lucifer flows through me.. and it's our father Satan and IMPIETY it keeps me alive and fighting hard!

To conclude : how does a skull fuck looks like ? Fellation or opening the skull with an axe or a driller and to smash brain with an iron dick ?

Arrrgghhhhh... how else would it look like komrade??? It's better to wait . and see the different kult cover art on the DRAKKAR "Skullfucking Armageddon" edition. It will be out in no time... and of course, this question will be well answered by then.

Impiety@cyberway.com.sg

The Demos/Eps reviews section

ARCANA LITURGIA
« the return of the mighty king »
Medieval music, it's written... Sopor Aeternus is medieval music, not Arcana Liturgia ! Azog, the soul behind AL thanks Mortiis and Dazuzu for inspiration in the booklet (great booklet), and that's right we can bear their influence. The music is mainly composed of piano and choirs. A voice is added to tell the story of Algbor's kingdom. Sometimes a female voice... Well, nothing original, and the result is average. Not bad, but not unforgettable and a bit boring too. I guess Azog should work and vary more its music, because it has a potential.
AL c/o A. ARTUSI, via S.Guerci 19/A, 43100 Parma, Italy

ATROPOS « la fileuse de mort »
First their cover (nude girls dancing) has already been used for the « tous maudits » compilation and on an Impaled Nazarene T-shirt. It remains a great cover though. On their bio, they say that they play black metal not being satanists nor extremists, playing for intelligence in men. It's a bit a common point with the bio I made for Scatofago, except that here, their pentagram points towards the sky ! this is a bit weird... Is this white metal ? Listening to the music, it's melodic gothic/dark metal, their skills are high, it reminds me sometimes of Kalisia. But the comparison stops here. I maybe liked Kalisia, but not Atropos ! By wanting to be original at any price, they are boring. The sound isn't bad, they know how to handle their instruments, but I think it's sterile. The lyrics deal with greek mythology, they are sung in french, latin and in english. But I can't stand them as sometimes the singer takes a total ridiculous voice to make some kinds of incantations. Well, for a first demo it's not as bad, but honestly, I don't like it at all, so...
Gérald Milani / 34, la roque Courbière/ 13860 Lançon/ FRANCE

BEER VOMIT « vomis ta bière et tais toi »
Impaler of Trendies Prod
This is some pure grind/noise delirium. The concept is beer, beer and beer. Recorded under beer influence, beer spirit and humour, beer burps... The music (?) is some noise/grind, including cover songs from Burzum, Mayhem, Darkthrone but also Metallica and their idols Nirvana. Actually they take the first riffs of these songs and then it's noise. There are 34 tracks and 34 intros. These intros are TV ads, alcohol songs, cartoons extracts... Very funny for us frenchs but I doubt other people understand anything...
Impaler of trendies c/o Max VARNIER/161 avenue alsace lorraine/52100 SAINT DIZIER/France

BLACK WITCHERY « Evil shall prevail »
Chanteloup Creations
Ultra fast harsh black metal. The band comes from USA but plays the european way. Damned, finally they understand that Europe rules ! Back to Black Witchery. They come from Florida but they sound coming from Scandinavia ! The sound is not very good, the drums are a bit too high, but after a few listenings, real hatred invades your ears. Total BM it was made during the second wave. No heavy/thrash nor death metal elements, just BM. They have signed on Full Moon Prod, so we can expect a CD soon.
Chanteloup creations
Olivier DENIS / Ave. Des Cévennes /30360 Vézénobres /FRANCE

CHEMIN DE HAINE / SEIGNEUR VOLAND
This is a split demo that maybe become as cult as the split Osculum Infame/Funeral is. Seigneur Voland features Xaphan, an ex-Funeral member and Laurent, the mind behind Kristallnacht. For the music, it reminds me of Funeral, but not with a great sound. As for Chemin de Haine, it's the band of Malkira, the AMSG ruler. I guess there is an O.I member as well in it. At first I didn't like it. But after some listenings, I really found something in it and that's great BM. This is really a demo destined to become CULT.

DER GERWELT « nordlich sturm »
Beverina Prod
When reading the title, we could think that this russian band was scandinavian influenced. But when listening to it, we can feel a strong greek influence, Rotting Christ in particular. The whole is brutal yet melodic, and reminds me of the early 90's BM scene... Sometimes we can also hear influences coming from swedish melodic DM bands. All in all, a good demo, but unfortunately not unforgettable.
Beverina c/o Junis Silders / Lielvardes 139-74/ Riga, LV 1082/ Latvija

DEVIANT/ MYSTERIIS
split demo
Spikekult
Finally I've found a worst sounding band than mine and the black legions, eh eh. Those 2 bands come from France and play BM in its rawest way. DEVIANT is pure hatred black, but the result is not really great. The music is too simple, the voice is bad, the whole is not original. MYSTERIIS is better, but not original though. They play brutal black, with a norsk vein. They also covered DEATH, but I did not heard it. I think both the bands should work more before releasing anything else.
Spikekult/ 6bis, av de St-Germain/ 78600 Maisons Laffitte/ France

DEVILRY « Unleashed to haunt »
Oskorei Prod
Featuring an ex-member of Bethel, this band plays brutal satanic death metal, in the Deicide way, but with a shrieky voice. 4 tracks dedicated to Satan, with an excellent sound. I hope they'll release new stuff soon, as the demo is limited to 300 and should be sold-out by now.
Oskorei Mag/ PB 241 Indre Arna/ 5888 Bergen/ Norway

DRUADAN FOREST « Minas Tirith »
Chanteloup Creations
Druadan Forest is a side-project of the finnish Kalma. This man is well-known because he is involved in many bands nowadays : Bin Onde, Azagbal, Oath of Cirion, Hellkult... Well, Druadan Forest is a mix between BM, symphonic music and even techno. Medieval mixed with techno could sound weird, but the result is good. It reminds me of Golden Dawn and Pazuzu, sometimes. It's a good demo, and there is the first demo as bonus tracks. You should try it. Moreover, it's a Tolkien-based concept. I don't think Hobbits were technomen, but...
Chanteloup Creations address

EPHEL DUATH « Opera »
This is a two-piece band playing sympho BM, not in the Dimmac Burger way, I mean in the Limbonic Art way. LA seems to be a real influence for them since at the first listening, this name poped out of my mind. The songs are complex, with some cleaning vocals à la Emperor. The synth is always present and sometimes this becomes a bit boring because it's too much technical. Atheist meets Limbonic Art... But all in all it's good stuff, and you should listen to it.

ETERNAL MAJESTY/ANTAEUS
Gorification tapes
EM plays some very common BM. The sound is really poor, the guitar has too much fuzz and drums are very noisy. The guitar is over mixed so that the rest is drowned. I've not been impressed by Eternal Majesty I must say. As for Antaeus, they compiled studio and live tracks. It begins where the MCD ends, i.e the indus noise and the scream. The music is still brutal black metal, very interesting stuff. The live tracks show us how sound Antaeus on stage : brutal and unsane. The voice is more evil than ever and the drummer leads the death march. I think that we can compare their music to Mayhem's one on Deathcrush
DMM Prod c/o Pierre Dedourges/323 rue de Cambrai/59534 Bantigny / France

HATE FOREST « Scythia »
Beverina Prod
Yet an other BM band coming from Ukrainia. It starts with wolves bowling as an intro, then noisy BM. The production is horrible, we can hardly bear the drums, and they don't use high pitched shrieky voices but necrovoices, a bit à la Wallachia, but without the over effects. Well, nothing really appealing in this demo. A very classic BM demo, from the inverted cross on the cover until the wind blowing between the tracks...
Beverina address

HAWKMOON « Tome I :à l'aube des puissances »
Maybe I was expecting too much of this... I saw their name in a few interviews or lists and I was wondering... Hawkmoon is such an unusual name for a BM band... Well, I come back to this review and I try to be a bit objective. Hawkmoon play some epic BM with thrash and heavy touches. The band features DNT, who also plays bass guitar in Celestia. But the problem is that I can't get into Hawkmoon. It's not a problem of sound (which is good), not with the music (good also, although not hyper-original). I just can't jump into it. Maybe a next time...
Hawkmoon/ 69 rue St Sébastien/ 13006 Marseille/ France

HELWETTI « Unholy extreme black »
Drakkar Prod
Their demo's name perfectly describes the music those Finnish play. So I could stop here this review, but not. Actually, their unholy extreme black didn't impress me really, it's not original at all and the sound is poor. On the cover it's written the demo was remastered, so I don't know how it sounded before ! Back to the music, it's pure raw BM, but with some other elements, I think taken from oï music. Only the rawest amongst you could like Helwetti I guess...
Drakkar address

BIN ONDE « Athi's depths »
Satanachia Prod
Formerly called Svartalfheim, Bin Onde is a finnish band that worths to be listened to. If you have liked Storm or Isengard, you'll like Bin Onde. They play some black/folk, sometimes with a 70's feeling reminding me some Amorphis before they turned bad. The lyrics deal with scandinavian mythology and it's the band's concept. Norway had Storm, Sweden Otyg and now Finland has Bin Onde. I hope they'll release some new stuff soon.
Satanachia Prod/ Paulo Mira/ Po Box 70235/ Damaria 2721-903 Amadora/ Portugal

BUGINN « the millenium end »
Chanteloup Creations
This is the 3rd tape of this one man band. I didn't listened to them yet, so this is my first meeting with Buginn's universe. Being signed on Chanteloup is a token of quality to my eyes, so I hoped not ot be deceived. The music is black/pagan metal, with strong influences from Bathory, Falkenbach, and... Graveland. He knows how to play slowly as to play fast. Italy has only a few good bands, but Buginn belongs to that elite. I recommend you to listen to it !
Chanteloup address

INHUMAN DEFORMITY compilation vol.2
IDC PROD
Inhuman Deformity is a pro-tape compilation featuring brutal death metal bands. Well, reviewing a compilation is a kind of hard business, because what are the criterions to judge about it ? Okay, the tape lasts for one hour and features almost US bands, except two ones : Nox Intempesta from Germany and... Inhumate from France. Although it's a pro tape, I find the sound a bit too low. The bands are good, playing mainly brutal death/grind or indus/death (Abuse). But bte whole isn't very appealing. In the same style, I prefered the Commercial Terror compil from Poland. Anyway, the bands are : Regurgitation, Ton, Adnauseam, Nox Intempesta, Inhumate, Abuse, Aurora Borealis and Unburied.
IDC Prod/PO BOX 403/ Bradley Beach, NJ/ 07720-0403/USA

JÄÄRPORTIT « Kauan koskematon »
Noitavasara distribution
As I saw very good reviews for this demo, I expected something great... and I got it. Don't trust the cover that makes you think it's an Emperor copycat, I mean the drawing terribly looks like the « Reverence » cover. Jäärportit is actually an atmospheric project. It makes me think of Mortiis and Burzum, but it's better than Mortiis and less good than Burzum. Sometimes it sounds like an horror movie soundtrack, and sometimes it reminds me of Ildfrost. Anyway, this is a quiet demo, full of melancholy and atmosphere. Very relaxing in a way, but absolutely not evil. A very good demo indeed, I'm waiting for its following.
Noitavasara/ Väinämöisentie 35/ 96300 Rovaniemi/ Finland

LICHTEN NACHT « Bliss in demise »
Imperial Black Metal Art they say. Lichten Nacht is besides Ipbicrate the second band of Isendorn and Laurent. Their music is some misanthropic BM, not bad at all, their style is really interesting. They included lots of accoustic/folk parts into their BM, and some effects on the voice here and there. Some other times it's pure chaotic BM, the word « chaos » is real because at moments it seems that the guitar and the bass are untuned ? ! ? As a result, the band is split up between fast blasphemic parts and dark accoustic parts. The B-side is filled with only folk/dark ambient stuff, but I found it a bit too long and sterile. Anyhow, it's far beyond the average. Get it !
Isendorn/ rue le bas des forges/ 14210 Missy/ France

NOCTIS « Out of the shadow of legend »
Aura Mystique Prod
As this demo, originally released in 98, will be re-released on MCD in a few weeks, I can make a review. Well, if Noctis comes from the south of France, they sound coming from Norway. They play pure pagan norsk black metal, the way Storm and Satyricon did, back in 94. They even picked out a Storm chant and created its following. But, don't misunderstand me, if it's obviously influenced by those bands, it's well done and interesting. They know how to handle their instruments and clear voices are very honourable. A very very good demo, but we could expect something more personal for the next time.
Oskorei address

NORTHCROWN « Presage of war »
Yet another finnish BM band. This time it's not brutal satanic, but heathen metal. Only four tracks, but four good tracks, in an epic mood, that reminds me of Bathory and the viking bands. It reminds me also of Aeternus, in the way of playing, even if the voice is more shrieky here. The lyrics deal with the viking pride, but more in a historical way (a bit like Enslaved did on Eld). They say they took inspiration from Robert Howard books, and that's not a bad thing I guess. All in all, a very interesting demo, it won't revolutionate the UG world, but they deserve some attention.
Swordslain Prod/ PL 52/ 32701 Huittinen/ Finland

PUTRIDE DESECATION / INFECTED PUSSY / GRONIBARD / CARNAC ATTACK
4-way split tape
Ar Glazik Sallakr
Hell, this is a tape filled to its very end. 60 minutes of grind/noise core in 4 bands. The true satanic evil ones won't surely appreciate !Don't except ultra-serious things, but a collection of TV ads, cartoons, porn movies, stupid pop songs samples and brutal grind. That goes for the first bands. Carnac Attack is more complex : disco/dance beats, kung-fu movies samples (in chinese language) and larsens. I don't like this, it's pure noise but it has no interest for me ! Well, in this 4 way split, there are only two worthy bands : Infected Pussy and Gronibard (who play more brutal death than grind). But to my mind the best band remains Beer Vomit. I was told that the next 4-way will feature them. So be it !
Ar Glazik Sallakr/ linguennec Boulouard /29140 Saint Yvi/France

AOJAU « Demo 95 »
Well, this is a demo I was waiting for for a long time. Now, it's re-released with 3 bonus tx. This band was made with Aojau from Imperial on guitars and UWW from AMSG on vocals. The music : old Imperial meets Chemin de Haine. Some of the songs have been used in Imperial after this recording. So what is to say ? Black metal from 95, when there were not so many BM bands in France. If you long for this era, and if you like the aforementioned bands, get it !
Laurent chez Boye Patricia/ 32 bis av Bouloc Torcatis/ Bat C n°39/ 81400 Carmaux/ France

SATANAS VOBISCUM ET SPIRITUM TUO
« Scarification of soul »
Gorification tapes
SVEST is a french band that performs a black metal very influenced by the northern scene, Darkthrone especially. But it's not a Darkthrone rip-off though, we can hear they play with guts and hatred. The tape lasts for around 30 minutes for only 2 tracks. So the songs are long but not boring, and SVEST knows how to keep us awaked. This is a band to support.
Gorification address

SEGES SINDERE
« Suprema victoria draconis »
Bloodlust Prod
SS hails from Brazil and plays some straight and old fashioned black metal. This short tape starts with a war intro : saving private Ryan. I guess Hollywood should make more war movies if BM bands want to have those kinds of samples, eh eh. Back to the music : there are 3 shorts songs of « war metal », reminding me of old (very very old) Sepultura and maybe some Sarcofago. I find also some Rotting Christ, and the old greek scene. Well, there's no bigblight in this promo, nothing particular. If it's a first demo, it's rather good. By the way, their logo, although it's unoriginal, is great.
Bloodlust Prod / rua 9 Lt 227 / 101 Mag. Bastos / Rio de Janeiro-Rj Brazil / 21750-000

STARDROWNED
« promo 99 »
Only two tracks for this new demo, following « creatures of Abigor ». The band is greek, but, not like Uranus, it's not obvious when listening to it. They play a kind of dark metal, mixing black, death and doom influences. Sometimes the guitar parts remind of Carcariass ? ! ? their songs are like some travels, no with the same riffs from the beginning to the end. This is some great stuff, you should be aware of it ! It's a 2 tx promo, with almost no lay-out... I think they look for a deal, and I hope they'll get one. They deserve it.
Rostas Athanasiou/ Asenofontos 2, 41222/ Larissa, Greece

TSJUDER « Atum nocturnem »
At War Prod
Norwegian Tsjuder belongs to the second wave of BM, along with Gorgoroth, Immortal, Emperor,etc. But they released only two demos since they existed and this is their second one. Actually I think they are the Gorgoroth's brothers because they play the same way. Chainsaw BM, as they claim it. They had some line-up changes so that there are some well-known BM musicians that went through this band. But it's not a all-star band ! It features a member of Isvind and an other from Gehenna, although it doesn't sound like a viking band. Check out their first album on Drakkar Prod.
Drakkar address

ULCERRHOEA « Fetus sanguinolentus »
Formerly Carnal Shroud, this band plays brutal grind gore. It's in the pure gore way, some low guitars and a voice we can imagine it's been picked up out of the lavatory. They have made a cover of GUT, and this band is their main influence I think. Anyway, the demo is great, could be excellent if not so short ! But it's the rule in grind, so... There is now a new version of this demo, with some bonus tracks and a new artwork.
Putrid Nausea c/o M. Lundberg/ Humboldstr. 12 / 90542 ECKENTAL / Germany

VALAR « Towards the great unknown »
Engwar Prod
This is an other project of a member of Azaghal. This time it's atmospheric music, a bit like Druadan Forest, totally dedicated to Tolkien's universe. Some of the songs are really great, with a folkish side, very catchy, a song has the same structure than an Bin Onde song. So, on one band, there are good songs, and on the other band, there are less than average songs. This added to the bad sounding and bad female singing makes an average demo.
Janis Balodis/ Zenites 2, Riga/ LV 1002/ Latvija

WINTER FUNERAL
« Filled with despair... Satbanas »
AMSG
AMSG is back after a so long time and gives us a new (master)piece of elite black metal. This french band plays total misanthropic B.M, with some intros where a female voice drowned in echo speaks some french incantations. Then the music arrives and it's a mix between Osculum Infame and Bekbira. And as the members are not precised, I wouldn't be astonished they play also in the bands I've mentioned... Even if the production is not as its best, we don't care ! It's so bewitching that nothing has any importance ! Get it !
UW Prod/Coreex n°179/19, av Mi Foch/77508 CHELLES CEDEX/France

No more reviews !

The CD reviews section

ABSURD
« Asgardsrei »MCD
Darker Than Black (?)
Yes, finally the new Absurd is out. The album begins with an intro made by Rob Darken, that could perfectly fit a Graveland album, without the machine guns fires. Then, 3 tracks of slow and mid-tempo BM. It's a bit different from the first album, it's less influenced by punk/RAC music. There is still the evil and the clear voices, creating atmospheres of hymns to the third Reich. Well, this CD won't please all of you. All the tracks are sung in german and support what the nazis did want. Germanien über alles... German soldiers photos, NS speach, aryan will and pride, I wonder why the label has been stopped by police... Anyway, it's an album that worths to be listened to.

ANTAEUS « Rekordin 2000-1 » MCD
Spikekult / End All Life
I discovered Antaeus through a track on the Encyclopedia Pestilentia compilation. Actually this song didn't impress me at all and I wondered why Antaeus was so famous and respected in our scene. Hell, with this rekord, I understood and I changed my way of thinking. Antaeus is great ! the MCD contains only 2 tracks and 2 industrial intro/outro for only 11 minutes. This is to my mind the only negative point : it's too fucking short ! The music is brutal BM, even if it begins like indus death. But the voice reminds us we have to deal with evil metal. I think we can compare them to Mayhem, and MRM's vocals sound a bit like Maniac's ones, but not as extreme as them (I mean, the high pitched shriek voice). Anyway, you should get this MCD before it's too late !
Spikekult

AETERNUS « Shadows of old »
Hammerheart
Great. The album begins like an explosion and fire rages on. Fire is the thema of this record, by the way. The lay-out is filled with flames and sometimes we can see the members. Pfff, they should have kept make-up or not include photographs ! They're ridiculous ! But let's come back to the music. The production is really great, a BIG sound crushes your ears. It's pure Aeternus, a bit more D.M though and with some Immortal touches. Starts like D.M then the dark/black parts arrive. Brutal and melodic. There is less acoustic parts, but the pagan/folk aspect remains in the lyrics and in the last track, an instrumental song with only bagpipe. If you wish for a more brutal Hades, get Aeternus.

AZAGHAL « Mustaama »
This album begins with clean guitars, in folkish way, then a big Iarsen and... pure unbloy BM, with a RAW sound. The vocals kill, sometimes they are clean, in the viking way, reminding us that the members play also in Bin Onde, a viking/pagan black band. Most of the tracks are sung in finnish, and are satanic-oriented. Well, I love this album, it really kills, even if the production isn't at its best. But I guess the main negative point in this album is that it's absolutely not original. I've already heard a big part of this record in other bands, albums. Azaghal is clearly influenced by Darkthrone, Rampfar and the norsk scene in general. But if they copy these ones, they do it really well. Try it !

BEHEMOTH « Satanica »
Avant-Garde
Behemoth follows its quest for a musical identity. After having played slavonic black, they perform brutal death. More brutal than their last album, this time they go farer. All the tracks are good, the drummer can't stop playing the faster he can, and the production is near from being perfect. Once more, there are 66 tracks, and 2 ghost-tracks. I must add that the lay-out is simply great, Avant-garde have done a good work. Behemoth is maybe the link between polish black and death bands as Vader.

BLESSED IN SIN
« Melancholia »
AMI PROD
As this band was famous some years ago to be one of the most extreme BM bands, we could expect extreme raw BM. Not at all. They play melodic BM, with some doom, thrash and heavy touches. The lyrics are in english and in french and the title of the album describes perfectly what they're talking about. This is great BM, very mature, no need to be hyper-blasphemic to be true. It's different of what does exist around, I guess this band is a unique band.

CANNIBAL CORPSE
« Bloodthirst »
Metal blade
Third album with Corpsegrinder on vocals and second one with an ex-NEVERMORE on guitars. It's the same vein of *Gallery of Suicide*, it's brutal death. It's a good album, but finally I feel disappointed... Anyway, if you long for brutal gore death, listen to Dying Fetus or Deeds of Flesh.

GODLESS TRUTH
« Burning existence »
Deadsun Records
The first album, « Desperation », deceived me a bit as I expected brutal death metal, a kind of Vader and Krabathor brother. Actually it was death metal the way it was made in the first '90 half. Now, the new album is a bit more « modern ». There are many thrashing elements along with good death metal. On the booklet, one of the guitar players thanks Heavy/speed/guitar heros metal bands and we can feel their influence on solos. The sound is blasting your ears, they had a very good production for this album. It's not easy playing DM, there they joined Vader. But I

don't think they follow Vader or Krabathor's path. They are original and follow their own path. This is an album you must have in your collection. Essential !

GORGOROTH « Incipit Satan »
Nuclear Blast
Argh ! ! ! This is one of best BM albums for this year ! It's not the same as their debut, they decrease in speed but the atmospbere is still bere. Now they bad a big production for this album so that we can bear and understand wbat they play. Mid tempo, fast black metal, deep haunting voice speaking dark incantations in norwegian, shrieky voices screaming through the speakers... and a big big sound. There is a touch of electro/indus between the tracks, not like Rovenant, don't be afraid, but far more dark and disturbing. Highly recommended.

GRAVELAND « Immortal pride »
No Colours Recs
Keeping on following the voice of Middle Ages and paganism, Graveland return, with a new album. This time, there are two tracks and two intro/outro. The songs are more epic than ever, dealing with the ancient pride of the Pagans, stolen by Christians. Musically, it's great slow pagan/black with some choirs à la Bathory., epic synths, female voices. There is still the Graveland touch, a guitar riff alone then the same plus the drums. The whole thing is excellent, the production is very clear, it's surely THE Graveland masterpiece. This is the album Quorthon should have made after Blood Fire Death. Anyway, a milestone in metal history. Up to you not to miss it !

GRAVELAND « thousand swords »
No Colours Recs
You wonder why I review this album when it's released since 1995 ? Because No Colours re-released it with a total new artwork in digipack. And this is one of the best albums of Graveland EVER. Tibs is a must have. No less.

IMPERIAL « Malmort »
Osmose Productions
Yes ! The new Imperial is out ! As a trio, they go far away that their first album. Here the songs are on the vein of their MCD, and a bit faster. They also improved a lot their sound, and they play thrash metal with some death elements (even if they say they play speedcore ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?) All the songs are sung in french language, they are cynical and brutal ! ! ! This time nothing will stop them ! ! !

IMPERIAL « promo Cd 2000 »MCD
Self financed
Imperial has left Osmose now. Or Osmose has fired them. If you have read the interview before, you'll understand why ! well, these are 2 new tracks, « Mange-crottes » and « Cannibale ». the music has changed a bit from the album. The tracks are less speed but always brutal. It seems that their japanese friends have influenced them 'cause we can feel some Sabbat in the guitar parts. The voice is still harsh and caustic. The whole makes me think of the demos era because of the drum machine. I guess they kept the same rhythms programs from « war spirit » ! Anyway, you won't hear those songs in this version because this MCD is only for labels !

IMPALED NAZARENE « Nihil »
Osmose Prod
A new Impaled is out and the question is poping up : has they come back to the Tol crompt... era ? No. It's the following of Rapture, which was the following of Latex cult and so on. Musically, it's pure Impaled Nazarene. The guitars are sharpen and fast, Mika's voice is teared apart, fast drums... Except some punk solos or heavy elements, nothing new, and that's maybe the only negative point in this album : no surprise. Oh yes, one guitarist from Children of Bodom plays on it. Anyway, it's a good album, brutal and sadomasochistic. Angel rectums still bleed and will do that way for a long time...

IMPIETY « Skullfucking armageddon »
Asia is more known for its girls doing weird things with their cunts and bananas than for its metal. Serious error. Impiety simply kills. Their music is black/thrash metal in the good way. Sometimes it makes me think of Immortal's « battles in the north », sometimes german thrash. Impiety is a great band that deserves all your attention. It's really killer. Nothing more to add to this. Arghbbbbbbbb ! ! !

JUDAS ISCARIOT « heaven in flames »
At war prod
When I bought this tape, I didn't know how J.I sounded, and the band is almost unknown. So I was totally virgin when I first listened to this... Virgins have to be raped and so were my ears, because it's simply EXCELLENT ! ! ! It's a kind of mix of norwegian and polish scene. Darkthrone meets Graveland. If you like those two bands, you'll love J.I. Raw guitars, grim voice and haunting synths all along the album. The band is american, but not at all influenced by the US black death scene ! There's only one soul behind J.I, Akhenaten, helped by a session musician. You can get this release on 3 supports : CD, tape or vinyl, you have no reason to say you didn't know ! BUY BUY BUY !
At war c/o Andreas Bauer/ Greppenstrasse 51/ 82239 ALLING/ GERMANIA

KRISIUN « Conquerors of armageddon »
Century Media
New album for Krisiun, that was really discovered with « black force domain ». They still play brutal satanic death metal, perfecting their style album after album. In the mood of Angel Corpse and so on, devastating metal fury thrashes you apart. Krisiun doesn't need no war samples, guitars are explosion, drums are machine guns. Unavoidable, inexorable. I think they'll deserve an interview for Darkness Treasures, eh eh...

KRISTALLNACHT « Warspirit » MCD
Darker Than Black
Out on the infamous Darker Than Black Recs, and after some demos under the name of Funeral and some split EP/Demos, here is the first CD release of this french EXTREME band. Only two new tracks and two old tracks re-recorded, this is some pure black metal. The songs are fast, with some synths that turn them into hymns for the pagans, real propagand'art. A very good MCD, a pure underground release, but if you can't stand NS views, choose something else.

MANIAC BUTCHER « Invaze »
Pussy God records
Argh ! this is some raw and fast BM ! The Czech riders are back (not with the horses this time) and won't stop playing until you're dead. Actually they make you die in a bit more than 30 minutes. Maniac Butcher 30', your murder in 30 minutes, eh eh... Black Metal dies, turning into sweet gay gothic or industrial stuff, Maniac Butcher doesn't give no shit, they'll won't stop playing pure unholy BM. And that's great. Nothing is missed in this album : raw guitars, fast drums, harsh voice (a bit à la Maniac), evil melodies, explosions, spikes, medieval axes... Maniac Butcher is a part of the BM legend. BUY !
Pussy God Records / Radim Hora / Po Box 19A / 28601 BOROVICE / Czech Republic

MISANTHROPE « Recueil d'écueils » 3CD box
Holy Records
As Philippe said in the interview, they released a box with some rare stuff. There's one CD with unreleased tracks from different periods, from 1666... to Libertine. The new tracks are still in the swedish vein, the rest is pure Misanthrope. There's a new version of « Courtisane Syphillitique », much more complex and better sounding than on 1666... The 2nd CD is a live one, it's a real bootleg, one have to stay concentrated to hear it's Misanthrope. The 3rd Cd is Libertine Humiliations, if you already own it, you what it's like. There is also a 100 pages booklet with lyrics, photos... Well, read in the interview how Philippe speaks about it, he does it better than me. Every fan of Misanthrope must have this collector, limited to 1793, and already sold-out.

MUNDSUR « Unholy forces » MCD
AMI PROD
I was bit anxious when putting the tape in the deck, because I got the « Eternal hate » demo and the feebleness of the sound covered the excellence of the music. But, here, not ! Starts with the usual synth intro, great anyway, and then, brutal black crushes my ears. Coming back to the intro, I don't know if it's an original one, as it reminds me of an original movie track. The tracks are ultra fast brutal yet melodic (in brutality I mean !), the voice is hateful and possessed. It's a bit in the norsk and swedish vein, like Dark Funeral and Marduk. The last track is a mid-tempo one and proves they're not good only playing 200 mph. This is a fucking good debut recording, and I warn you to get all your attention on this band.
AMI PROD, MBE 113, 80, rue Legendre, 75017 Paris, France

NOTRE DAME « le théâtre du vampire »
Osmose Productions
What is this ? ? ? The black metal renewal ? It's a mix between Mercyful fate, COF and Gloomy Grim. Female voices, synths, horror atmospheres... Where is the originality ? Listenable once, then boring the second listening. What the hell Osmose is fucking doing ? Keep your money for the next Immortal album !

OLD MAN'S CHILD « Revelation 666 – The curse of damnation »
Century Media
The Dimmac Burger clones are back with their new album, and although their label says it will surprise the scene, nothing has changed since the last one. Even if some old members are back and new are in, Old Man's Child remains the property of Galder. A commrcial black metal album, quick listened to, quick forgotten. Nothing more, nothing less.

REBAELLIUN « Burn the promised land »
Hammerheart
Krisiun's new album is out. It's the logic following of « Apocalyptic revelations ». Brutal satanic death metal, with skulldrilling soli, in the vein of Morbid Angel, Deicide, or even Angel Corpse. This record has a good production and this really kills. A good Krisiun album, but not too surprising. But, wait, what's that ? It's not the Krisiun CD ? ? ? What's that band ? Rebaelliun ? Oups...

RITUAL CARNAGE « every nerve alive »
Osmose Prod
Here is the second album of the japanese non-friend-with-Sabbat Ritual Carnage. Now their death metal is more thrashy, less Death influenced, and with some speed touches. Apart from that, it's still Ritual Carnage. Fast rhythms, sharp guitar solos, hateful voice. After having covered Onslaught on their debut, they covered « Bit the lights » from Metallica. I was a bit deceived by this version because it's a 1:1 cover, and it doesn't bring the Ritual Carnage touch. « Every nerve alive » is a really good thrash album, I don't see no point you to get it, except they're not friends with Sabbat, eh eh.

SAMAEL « Eternal »
Century Media
Samael is a kind of forefather of black metal. It no longer is, on this album they play gothic/atmospheric/dark metal. It's very good though, the songs are very catchy (« together »), the voice stays dry and excellent and the sound is... spacial. Try it.

SIGH « Scenario 4 : dread dreams »
Cacophonous
The eclectical Japanese are back with a new album. Expect thrash/black with a raw guitar sound. The voice sometimes sounds like COS, but the comparison stops here. But it goes beyond metal and adds lots of non-metal elements, like country music, classical music... The music is thus varied, interesting and never boring. Beware, this can be difficult to get in and you should listen to it 2 or 3 times before getting into it.

SOUL REAPER « Written in blood »
Nuclear blast
Uggh... The cover is really shitty... Even demos have better drawings. Well, Soul Reaper features ex-Dissection members. So I expected thousand times ever heard swedish black metal. Actually not, it's more brutal death metal with black touches, as Angel Corpse or Krisiun do. It's good, it reminds of the early 90's death albums. They cover « satanized » from Dissection, but can we speak of cover ? It's more an actualisation as they're almost the same musicians than on the first version ! Forget about the crappy cover (shame on Robert Ekeroth !) and listen to Soul Reaper. But I'm afraid you don't remember them after a while...

THE AGE OF INNOCENCE « The greyness of a picture » MCD
Self financed
Gothic dark metal. This is not my cup of tea, but let's try reviewing it. Mid tempos, clean voice trying to sound like a barytone or something like this. It reminds me of Forest of Souls, but FOS is far better. Well, I found this album boring, no highlight in it. I guess it's maybe because I don't like this kind of stuff.
Alain Lebourg / 14 r du Docteur Charcot/01500 St Denis en Bugey/France

URANUS « Heathendome 1999 »
Self-produced
I really loved the demo of Uranus, the famous « Clang of lances ». Now, they've released their debut CD. Uranus keeps on delivering some epic battle death/doom. They improved their skills, the songs are fast and melodic, including folk parts, soul-haunting female chants (a bit like Septic Flesh's voice). I think they've taken the best from the greek legends bands and mixed it to create their own music. So I can say they play Greek Metal. This is a record in which death, doom, black and pagan fans can find themselves. A real worthy album.

VITAL REMAINS « nom de l'album »
Osmose Prod
This is the new album of these Americans, with a new guitar player, named Suzuki. It's still brutal death metal, but the songs are shorter than on the previous one. It's maybe more brutal, with less accoustic parts. The CD begins wit ha classic intro, already used byu Graveland on Epilogue. Their death metal is maybe more actual, but you don't listen to Vital Remains as you listen to Dying Fetus. Note that there is a track in french, « société des Luciférien s ». A good album.

VORACIOUS GANGRENE « Hooked to death » MCD
Self financed
EX-DISABLED, Voracious gangrene plays some brutal death the american way. It's a mix between Cannibal Corpse and Suffocation, with a touch of Lividity I think. Anyway, it's sick, brutal and good ! A gore cover and a surprising back photo on which the members are banged on ! 6 tracks of brutality right in your face. This is a band to support and that'll certainly enter the circle of the best french death metal bands, along with Gothic, Agressor and Inhumate. Send 55$$/ to :
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Moonblood is undoubtely one of the most interesting german BM bands. And also the most mysterious. To read a Moonblood interview is quite a rare thing, because Mirko, one of the two dark souls behind Moonblood, did some interviews for zines during the period from 94 to 95 but stopped there because of the " total commerical attack towards the UG scene " ! as for Mirko, " the best way to stay underground is not of appear anywhere ". Maybe he's right, maybe not (to me he's wrong cause I really wanted to get a Moonblood interview ! ! ! ! !)

But now Moonblood is no more. The band began in 1994, with Darkthrone and Bathory influences, and it seems that the millenium ended the collaboration between the two guys. Actually their personal problems turned bad, Mirko's goals were never understood. So the band died.

Today, each one works from their side. Mirko works on Azaxul songs, that surely will have strong Moonblood influences. It seems that Ravenclaw and Mysterium, his other side-projects, will stay in the closet. But who knows ?

When asking about the limitation of their releases, I mean, the next posthumous album that will be released through EAL Prod will be limited to 100 ! Mirko answers : " of course the limitation of our releases is important! It's true underground spirit to make your stuff only for some special people. Those LP's in 100 copies only are made only for our " fans ". We don't make any profit, nor EAL Prod. Anyway, we never made any profit with our stuff. We always paid more money that we got back, but we don't care. It's made for the scene, not our profit ! "

As I said, a new LP is to be out. Actually, there are several items to be released, even if the band doesn't exist any longer. That makes Moonblood more cult he already was.

Now, as the band was very productive, I propose you the whole discography of the band :

MOONBLOOD releases :
" Moonblood " Reh / demo aug. 94
" Nosferatu " Reh / demo dec.94
" The winter falls over the land " demo march 95
" Siegfried " Reh / demo oct.95
Moonblood / Nema – Split 7 EP aug.96
Under the pagan moon – comp CD 96 track " I

am all "
" Blut und Krieg " MC march 97
Encyclopedia Pestilentia – comp CD 97 track
" fullmoon witchery " (unreleased)
Asakku/Moonblood – Split 7 EP march 98
" Blut und Krieg " LP nov.98
Evil/Moonblood – split tape nov.99
Inferno/Moonblood – split 7EP dec.99

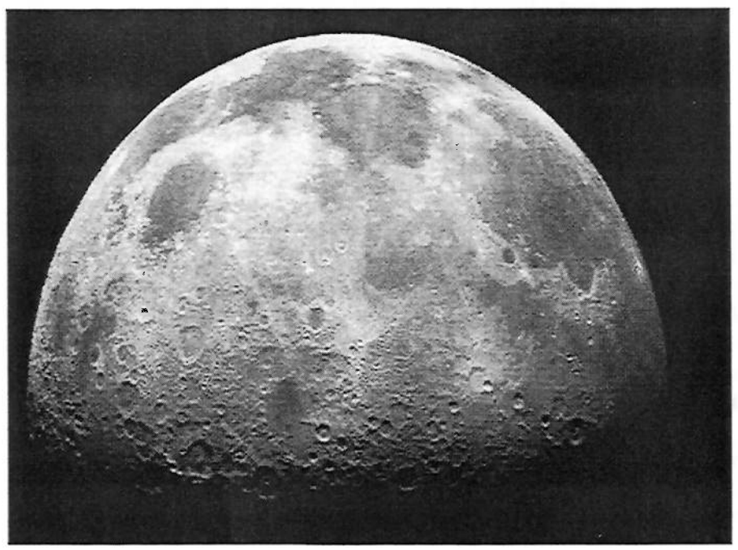
Soon : " taste our german steel " LP 2000 (last album)
" Mondblut " 7 EP 2000
" Deathspell Omega / Moonblood " split LP 2000/2001
Moonblood/Weltmacht Split LP ?

RAVENCLAW releases :
" Demo I' 95 "
" Winternacht " Demo 2' April 96
Nightwolf/Ravenclaw – split demo 97

MYSTERIUM releases :
" Nacht der Wölfe " demo 96 (Synth project with drum, voice & keyboard)

AZAXUL releases :
" The arrival of the demon lord "demo 98

Thanks to Mirko for helping me to get through this article.



FIVE QUESTIONS TO ...

Chanteloup Creations

1 – When did you decide to create Chanteloup Creations ? This name is a very original one. Where did you find it ?
Chanteloup Creations' birth dates back to the half of 1997, I think and after two years and a half, the list has become the most important of the non-professional french distributors. Actually, I've had a radio show for 4 years and I collaborated in zines, a newsletter too and the tape label was a logic following. I asked a long time friend who shares almost the same underground vision than me to join me in this activity. The name comes from me (thanks for the compliment !). It has a medieval sounding. There are many places in France in which old names are something like Chantebise (the wind...), and their origin is attested in medieval writings. Chanteloup *(we could roughly translate it in english as " Singwolf " , ED)* is a kind of image we could have from the sound of the wind sliding onto the snow. The noise it would create could remind the howling of the wolves. As you see, there is still a way to speak about Nature, woods, cold and all those commonplaces that create BM with its originality. That is the ambition of the bands chosen on the list. There are many bands that chose to sing in their lyrics in their mother-tongue, following the scandinavian path. But I think that the number of labels who chose a name in their own language is far less usual... It's true that our signification is opaque for the non-french speakers...

2 – Beside from enjoying their music, what are your choice criterions to sign a band ?
It was first the prolongation of relationships I've established when I ran radio shows (Necrosis, D.I.T.R.I.O.L, Nachtmusikk). Those relationships went of course further than the single link band/media. A personal link, a mutual respect and a thoughts community about a certain underground vision. Let's say that for the whole signed bands, the bands' members' personality is essential. If you sign idiots and trendies, it will repercutate on your label and the image you want to promote. So you'd better avoid trendies. Anyway I think that musical and personal maturity go on a par with. I don't know genius musically idiots. Although some musicians in some norwegian bands currently start to have a swollen head... If you look at the released demos up on Chanteloup, you'll see that many of them are side-projects of longtime respected people *(Dreamlord from Golden Dawn, Shatraugh from Horna, Nicolas from Your Shapeless Beauty for example... , ED)*. We don't come out from nowhere.

3 – What sort of deal do you offer to bands (limited demos, pro tapes...) ?
It can depend on the bands and their aims. As on the demos proposed also. Generally speaking, the released demos on Chanteloup Creations are all limited editions, from 100 to 300 ex. Since some times we do pro covers, but not systematically. Once again, it depends on bands and what they want. We carry also all the distribution, promotion and flyers. That's a good thing for bands that don't have time to do it or enough contacts with others distros. Actually, we have a good distribution network with european underground distros and that allows bands to be spread in most of european countries generally speaking.

4 – I saw there are many extreme bands in your list. Is it important for you ? Do you think it's good to mix music and politics ?
Well observed... but not as many though : one dozen out of more than 400. If I distribute bands that do that mix between BM and politics, I do it to help them. This doesn't mean I share their point of view. As far as I'm concerned, I think it's an error to mix BM, that is, beyond music, a system of values, let's say a School of Thought, with a political doctrine for the mere reason that values to which BM refers itself is written in a tradition that dates back to 2000 years (not to mention mesopotamian and sumerian civilizations influence also present in BM). In there, there's matter to discuss about, but to make it short, let's say that BM cultural origins are satanism and/or occultism founded on the indo-european religions (nothing to do with India, that's the right term), named Torah and Holy Bible. And yes ! If you admit the existence of a God coming from those religious writings. Without God, no Satan, without Judas, no Christ... If you mix it to politics of which any actual doctrine isn't older than a hundred years, it doesn't work out I think. But if people do that mix and think honestly that it's justified, I don't think why I should refuse them to be on my list. So to be clear : I think that refusing to distribute those bands for moral reasons is unfounded. Because that's the point : almost every people who boycott those bands do it for moral reasons (the famous " never again... ", as if History had any sense and we should use Past not to reproduce it. Read Hegel...) and not for reasons I've explained before. I think that people who have a moral problem in BM have a bit taken the wrong road... Chanteloup Creations is not and won't be a politically involved label. I can't be more precise.

5 – What's the future for Chanteloup ? Will you evolve to the CD ? Or maybe to the vinyl ?
The future is more underground BM, resisting againsnt its commercialization. There are still many people that know what they're listening to and who won't turn their back to this style. Fans have understood since a long time that the long-awaited renewal of this style doesn't necessarily come from the big professional distros. We'll keep on soiling Souls, perverting hearts, raping consciousnesses... There is no CD in sight, neither vinyl.

Chanteloup Creations
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Ask for free mail-order list

YYRKOON

How is going Yyrkoon by now ?
We've just finished the recording of a 2 tracks demo to approach labels in order to find something more serious than Velvet Music. The composing of the second album is now over, we now need a label that shows interest in us a bit closer... On an other hand, we'll play live the 7th of April in Pratteln, the 29th in Noyon, the 6th of May in Paris, the 12th in Morlaix and the 13th in St-Nazaire (not sure).

I guess that the band has line-up problems. To what is it linked ?
Maybe the high level ?
We had indeed a problem with the guitar player, Jérôme has decided to leave the band and as a consequence we hadn't a second guitarist for a big while. But the problem is solved since a long time now, we found François on the last summer and everything goes round with him. We already made four concerts with him and he starts to be prowled about... Here in the Oise, relatively good guitar players are not many ! ! (besides, François doesn't even live in the Oise !)

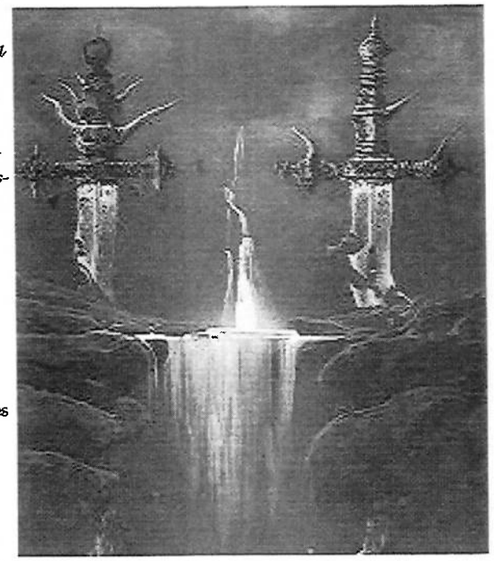
What does mean this name, Yyrkoon ? Where did you find it ?
Yyrkoon is a character created by the author Moorcock in the " Circle of Elric ". In a way, his stories influenced us in the writing of our first album and the image of Yyrkoon sticks really well to our music. Still, we do not systematically use this concept to compose. We chose this name before all because it sounded really well (to our taste) and he seemed to be original for us.

You play some Black Metal with a lot of heavy, thrash, even Death Metal influences. As for you, Black Metal is a middle-stage or a finality, the reason to be of the band ?
Let's say that we're playing Heavy Metal with Black and Death Metal influences... or Death with Heavy and Black Metal influences ! ! (...) in any case, we don't consider Black Metal as a stage nor a finality facing to the band. It's for us a major influence as Death, Heavy Metal are, as all that follows. But our music evolves and will evolve during the years. You just have to listen to our demo " oath, obscure, occult " and " Oniric Transition ", the differnce is obvious. And it will be far more obvious on our next album.

You're a relatively young band, you have just released a demo tape and a CD. But this record is technical, with a real work on the structures. Does it ask you much work, many rehearsals ? What is the musical background of the band's members ?
Kris (bass) learnt alone, I think he practices for 5 years, he played in many bands before he joined us. François (guitar) has also learnt alone and belang to a Heavy Metal band before joining us. Stéphane (guitar, sing), Jeff (keyboards), and I (Laurent, drums) learnt for one year " modern " music (rock, blues, jazz...) in Paris last year, I think they learnt to " materialize " what they already had in mind and that was a good experience. As for me, I follow percussions and drums courses since ten years in an academy, that allows me to play different things in different moods (that reveals to be very enlarging).
If we play " technical " riffs, it's because it naturally comes to us. Anyway, we aren't looking for doing something above our level, it would be totally ridiculous. In our songs, some riffs can appear very " basic " next to some others, but nevermind, we don't pay attention on the moment.
As for rehearsals, believe me that if we could rehearse more often, we would do it ! !

In the track " Lost Ideal ", there's a pure thrash riff, but it reminds me more of the US Thrash Metal than the german or european one. Am I wrong ? Do you prefer US or german school ? Which are the bands that influenced you as a band ?
Oh la ! ! three questions in one... all that we're listen to directly influences us more or less. We're not people who select 4 or 5 " best " records and that make something that can stand by picking out things here and there. Each band has its own identity and it transmits it in its music, and that makes the originality of the thing. I don't like to use the words like " best bands " or also " technically better than... ", well... I withdraw a bit !
May the bands we're listening to be american, german, russian, norwegian, they all influenced us at a moment or an other.

Not to offend you, I find the Oniric Transition cover to be very ugly and not encouraging people to listen to the album. Was it your choice or the label's decision ?
Well, I can say that you don't turn around the thing ! ! (but you're right !) Yes it's true that the final look of the cover does not really turned well. And that's neither a decision from ourselves nor a label's decision. We asked a friend to draw us a painting, precising him what we wanted, but between our thoughts and the final result, there was, I would say... a little misunderstanding... our error has maybe been to keep it like it.



How is the album an oniric transition ? Do you believe in the dreams influence upon people ? Are they a source of inspiration, as they could have been for Tolkien when he wrote the Lord of the Rings ?
Oniric Transition is a concept album. To sum it up, lyrics deal with a character that puts everything back into the melting pot after he lived some experiences. He finally chooses to call the Elements. You just have to read the lyrics more in depth to understand that they are concrete and can be understood in different ways, that makes the charm of this proceeding.
Now to know if dreams can influence people, I can't really answer to that question : my own dreams have always been confused and of an astonishing incredibility ! well, this is not something that worries me for the moment...

Thanks for the time you spent to answer. If you have something to say...
Watch out for the release of the next Yyrkoon album. Thanks to you.

Yyrkoon
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60170 RIBECOURT
FRANCE

The Baltic is not very well known for its extreme bands. Well, this is a band, Blizzard, that worths your attention. Wear your bear-coat and be prepared to fight the blizzard...

Hail Skygge, can you introduce your band by its story, please ?

Hail Thomas! Greetings everyone!
First of all, I would like to thank BLIZZARD maniacs all over the world, who made us stronger enough to continue our undertaking. You're blessed by Satan!
To tell you the truth, Darkness Treasures is the first European fanzine that showed it's interest to my person and band, and as a gratitude I will try to be interesting during this interview.
I think it's time to reveal the mystery of BLIZZARD biography.
First steps to the band formation were made by Nerone (guitars) and me in the fall of 1997. At the same time during October we had finished the record of our debut demo called "Servants of the Winter", that remains unreleased so far, but one of our tracks – "Possessed by Hate" (its first version) – was presented by BEVERINA Productions Compilation "Unto A Long Glory..." vol. II (sold out). Shortly after the results exceeded all expectations. We got tons of great responses.
BLIZZARD became the one and only black metal band in Latvia (I did my best and I am proud of it). Right after recording we needed a new drummer and a bass player, because Noctivagus (bass) became a part of HERESIARH, and Blacklord Slayer (shitty drummer) left a scene.
Soon after Kalatun (drums of HERESIARH) and Cyrill (bass) joined the band and with such line-up we had played all of our live performances. But the fall of 1998 was drawing near, and I decided to record our second demo (to make release I would be satisfied with) I've met a new drummer Oleg and "The Path to Spiritside" saw the light.
It was real hard work, but I've made it in seven days (hehe, I'm God J). About four months later Cyrill (bass) left the band and music generally.
I can say now that all the musicians who participated on "The Path..." are not members of BLIZZARD anymore. I realize now it's truly hard to work with such person as me, because I need the true maniacs to work with. I demand the self-sacrifice and fanaticism, but I didn't see these traits in the ex-members of BLIZZARD. I felt myself as single person before I started work with Possessed. We called our project STIR, and very soon we're gonna finish our old material under the title "Hail Satan!". Then I will work on the new BLIZZARD album, which will be satanic for 100%.

Your band's name is Blizzard. I think in your country winter is really freezing cold, and the wind from the baltic sea combined to the ice makes some blizzard. Do you worship your country's weather as Norwegians can do as for their country, thus making it a source of inspiration ?

Oh! Hehe... don't tell me about that fucking winter and sea climate. Right now I am sitting by the window at the farmstead for 85 km far from civilization (I mean Riga). I caught cold, I have fever and my thermometer shows 38,5, but I am an optimist, 'cause I have my gun and tons of cartridges. Thomas, can you tell me, is it possible in France to have the deer for dinner? *(Of course, but here we don't hunt them with guns, but we shoot them down with our cars and finsish them dead with our feet... ; ED)* I just have one. Hehe. Are you envious?
You're asking me do I worship my country's weather as the Norwegians do. Hmmm... no, I don't, especially right now. Fuck! Can you imagine, it's the first dates of February, but the rain still comes down. Here in Latvia with it's sea climate we feel ourselves much warmer when it's -20 C, than +5. Fucking humidity. Shit...
I remember about week ago as I fell into the giant puddle. It really sucks when the ice at the bottom of puddle is not melting.

Your style is some Black Metal, with brutal yet melodic parts, and we can clearly hear the bass guitar. What are your influences ? And how would you call your style ? Cold baltic black metal maybe ?

Yes, BLIZZARD is a black metal band. How would I call our style?! You know, I think it's a perfect combination of Greek BM and Northern BM. But it's only my opinion. People can call our stream however they want, but it's black metal... Latvian black metal.
About influences...
All the human senses are making big influences on me, such feelings as love, hate, sorrow, despair, solitude, pain etc. But the main inspiration I got from the books and music, of course. I must confess that I'm not satisfied with my old works, especially lyrics. For the last two years I've made revaluation in many respects. I wrote truly great lyrics for the new BLIZZARD and STIR albums, in these lines I have tried to describe my dreams, thoughts, views and beliefs. I think this time it came quite good. In this period I wrote my best work called "Heart of Lucifer's Fall", specially for the new BLIZZARD album. I hope soon you will listen to it.

I saw you were wearing a Darkthrone t-shirt and Nerone (guitars) hails Quorthon from Bathory in the booklet of the " path to spiritside " demo. Are those bands a big influence for you and do you prefer old black than the actual scene ?

Hehe! I am DARKTHRONE maniac forever. This greatest band always makes me admire! The most passionate song in my opinion is "Hans Siste Vinter/His Last Winter" from "Panzerfaust". I could enumerate few bands, which mean a lot to me: DARKTHRONE, DODHEIMSGARD, AETERNUS, VOIDHR, WAR and... Tom Jones with his crushing hit "Sex Bomb"feat. Mousse T., but I also prefer the old metal scene, such famous acts as BATHORY, HELLHAMMER/CELTIC FROST, KREATOR, SODOM etc.

In the " path to spiritside " demo, the intro is a live worcery, performed by yourself on stage in 98. Do you play live often ? is it easy to find some places to play ? How is the audience during your shows ? Do you think BM is a music to be played live or to be listened alone ?

We did a few live gigs in Riga. Don't tell to anyone that we had played sober, only once. The other gigs we did totally drunk. I broke so many noses of the audience from the first row, because of that we earned very scandalous reputation. So if you had visit our show at the first time and you saw some fettered bald bastard, surrounded by police, you can say to yourself with confidence that you missed BLIZZARD concert. Hehe. We do not perform live for one year, 'cause I don't have musicians for the full live line-up, but in the near future we shall arrange a presentation orgy of STIR "Hail Satan!".
Actually it's not our problem to find some place to play to play our show, most of times the festival organizers make us an offer and we settle on. I recalled our first concert with SKYFORGER and HERESIARH at "Zala Varna" pub. It was fucking kind reception! Oh please don't ask me about the fucking audience, here you can meet so many posers and trends at metal festivals, so here's the reason why I'm breaking their fucking noses all the time.
It's a quite difficult question to me, 'cause I had performed live and being on stage for me is just like a narcotic (you need more and more).
At live you can feel the strength and passion of music and vocals, but listening to your player alone you can hear the quality and specific details, I would say live gigs fucking rule!

Do you feel close to the estonian and lithuanian scenes ? We know Latvia as one of the 3 baltic countries, but it remains almost unknown to us.

No, I don't have any close contacts with Estonian and Lithuanian scenes. I must say that I have no contacts with them at all, but I've met some guys from both of these countries here in Riga. I can tell that Estonians are very reserved people but Lithuanians are cheerful. After all, either are delighted with Latvian beer. Hehe.
In my opinion Latvian sort of beer are the best in the whole world. Oh brothers, you gotta taste it! Come to Latvia and I promise, you will have a good time with me. Alcohol, hash, weed, hard drugs and girls etc. whatever you prefer. And for cheap prices. If someone of you wants to visit the Eastern Europe, I invite you to live in my apartments, no fucking hotels!

We do knoww Skyforger as a latvian band (great band anyway), but as for the others ? Which are the bands we should be aware of ?

I'm truly proud of Latvian metal scene! And I think that we are capable of making serious and original music. We have a lot of great bands, but not so many of them have an opportunity to records even a demo tape. That's why these acts remain unknown so far. But the strongest will survive! In the summer of 1999 I did backing vocals for the new A LITTLE BEAUTY album. Sir Kalmuk (brain of this sick project) did a great job and that track will be presented on some German compilation (Earth A. D. Recs, to be exact) in triple-CD format. It's difficult to name A LITTLE BEAUTY's style. I would call it sick industrial technical death metal.
STIR! A LITTLE BEAUTY! HERESIARH! BRUTE CHANT! NEGLECTED FIELDS! These are the bands you should be aware of!

On the greetings sections in your demo, something is written in latvian (I think it's latvian ! ! !) What does it mean ?

Hehe. It's not Lettish, but Russian (my native language). Sorry but I cannot tell you what does it mean.

You have your own label, Skygge productions. What is to be out on there ? And what is the situation with the labels in Latvia ?

Next release on Skygge Productions will be STIR "Hail Satan!", but I also have some plans about making split with BLIZZARD, we'll see. I know only four little labels in Latvia who work with that kind of music (I mean metal): Beverina Productions, Elven Witchcraft, Maniacal Brutality and Skygge Productions. Not many people want to be occupied with such affair that brings no incomes. I decided to found Skygge Productions just to release my own works and projects.

Thanks Skygge, if you want to say something to conclude,...

Thank you so much for this interview. I wish your first issue will see the light soon. Stay fucking evil, stay fucking metal! If someone of BLIZZARD fans truly interested in unreleased debut "Servants of the Winter" demo + live recordings send a tape + $3 to Skygge, Nicgales 16-10, Riga, LV-1035, Latvia.
As a completion I would like to thank the following persons: Roman Buzovin, Possessed, Daan Prinssen and Tyranor.